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The angels have landed



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The ghosts of Tzipori



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Mofaz takes over as CGS

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

LT-Gen. Shaul Mofaz took over the IDF yesterday and was immediately warned by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to mix the army and politics. Former chief of general staff LT-Gen. (res.) Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, 54, who may become Netanyahu's political rival, shot back, denying that IDF officers were ever "lackeys" to any government.

Arriving as a lieutenant-general at Camp Rabin, the IDF's general staff headquarters, Mofaz, 50, reviewed an honor guard made up of officer cadets from all branches of the IDF as the mili-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai promote new IDF Chief of General Staff Shaul Mofaz to the rank of lieutenant-general yesterday, enabling him to take up his duties. (Ariel Jerolimski)

Analysis: Mofaz's immediate challenges, Page 2

tary band played Handel's *The Hallelujah Chorus*. Looking on were his parents, siblings, wife Orit and their four children, as well as Shahak's wife Tali and his five children. They both then met with the general staff and Shahak bid them farewell.

"I wish I could tell what awaits in the future," Shahak said. "There could be days where the responsibility is great. I wish only for you all to deal with the challenges with wisdom."

See MOFAZ, Page 12

Senior official: US 'inconsistent' mediator

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A senior government official yesterday criticized the US negotiating team for being "inconsistent" - initially accepting and endorsing Israeli proposals, but then repudiating them after receiving negative reactions from Palestinian Authority leaders.

Meanwhile, two senior PA officials, Saeb Erekat and Nabil Shaath, left for Washington yesterday at the invitation of the State Department for talks about the prospective IDF pullback in the West Bank.

The senior official would neither confirm nor deny a Channel 1 report that the US is working on sponsoring a meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and the PA's deputy chairman, Mahmoud Abbas.

The official also denied that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had said the US would terminate its mediation effort by the end of the month.

He described this notion as "a tendentious leak" and said nothing to this effect came up in a telephone conversation yesterday

between Albright and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "She did not say any of those things," the official said.

He added that the leak came from Washington, not Jerusalem.

He alleged there was an American tendency to "vacillate and backtrack" when dealing with issues germane to the peace process. He indicated this could undercut Netanyahu's intention to announce the government's readiness to implement a 13.1% redeployment in the West Bank.

One example is Israel's insistence on the formal annulment of the Palestinian Covenant's articles that call for the elimination of Israel.

Netanyahu insists that this be done by the Palestine National Council, as required by the Palestine Liberation Organization's own regulations. Albright reportedly does not go along with Netanyahu on this.

Netanyahu met separately with President Ezer Weizman and Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak yesterday to update them about the peace talks, but nothing

was said publicly by any of them about the pertinent details.

The silence prompted speculation that Netanyahu may have advised them of plans to ask the cabinet to approve the 13.1% withdrawal.

However, the prevailing response to the Netanyahu-Weizman-Barak discussions in the electronic media was that they do not augur an early breakthrough on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

"I conveyed to the prime minister our conviction that the peace process needs to move on, and it's time to act on the pullout and settle the business," Barak said after the meeting.

"I heard more details on the state of affairs and more than that I don't want to add, because it's the prime minister's prerogative," he added.

The official explained that beyond the "virtually 10%" of the West Bank which would be handed over to the PA, an additional "3.1%" would be "nominally Palestinian" while the IDF would continue to maintain "full security control."

See MEDIATOR, Page 2

Uncle murders 14-year-old girl

By DAVID RUDGE

A 14-year-old Migdal Ha'emek girl was stabbed to death early yesterday morning, allegedly by her uncle, just minutes after he had attacked other members of his family in their home.

The suspect, Ya'acov Sfadiya, 21, then apparently tried to climb down the outside of the apartment building from the third-floor flat. He fell, injuring himself, and was arrested by police who had been

called to the housing complex. The arrival of police and Magen David Adom paramedics, however, came too late for young Aliza Cohen, who died at the scene.

Sfadiya was taken under guard for treatment to Nazareth's Scottish Hospital, where a special remand hearing in the presence of a magistrate was held in the afternoon.

The suspect was remanded until Sunday to enable a lawyer to be appointed to represent him. He is

expected to be sent for psychiatric examination.

Police sources said they were unable to immediately ascertain the motive behind the attacks because of the suspect's incoherent answers to questions.

The suspect was reportedly known to be a drug addict. It is not known whether he was under the influence of drugs at the time of the murder.

See UNCLE, Page 18

Coca Cola recalls bottles from stores

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry yesterday issued a warning against drinking Coca Cola from 1.5 liter plastic bottles from series 160211, bearing an expiration date of October 7. The step comes after a small number of bottles from this series were found to contain traces of paint thinner.

Reports estimated that 15,000 bottles would have to be pulled off the shelves.

The incident began Wednesday, when Uzi and Sarit Malhi and their three children from Kiryat Ekron were held for observation Wednesday night at Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital after drinking from a bottle of Coca Cola they bought in the Easymarket grocery store in Rehovot.

They said they had sensed a strange aftertaste and a funny smell, but did not get sick.

See COCA COLA, Page 12

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NEWS

in brief

Two killed in bus-car collision

Two people were killed and two seriously injured when a bus and a car collided last night near the Ma'aleh Shomron junction, in the vicinity of Kedumim. Several people were lightly injured. The circumstances of the accident were still being investigated last night.

Suspected drug kingpin remanded

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court remanded Yisrael Aharon Albaum, 42, of Bnei Brak, for five days yesterday. Albaum is suspected of being part of an international drug ring, money laundering and not reporting hundreds of millions of dollars worth of income to the tax authorities. He was arrested on Wednesday night, at the request of the British police, who sent representatives here to investigate the case. Albaum's lawyer denied all of the charges connected with drug trafficking.

2 naval commandos dehydrate in exercise

Two naval commandos dehydrated yesterday during a training exercise in the center of the country. One was in serious condition; the other was reported in satisfactory condition.

Two implicated in death of navy diver

A technical error and poor observance of safety precautions caused the death of a navy frogman, who was killed in February when a ship's propeller was suddenly turned on as he was conducting an underwater security inspection of the ship's hull. This is the conclusion reached by the team appointed by the Shipping and Ports Administration to investigate the death of Yuval Levy.

The committee concluded that both Transport Ministry inspector Avi Golan and the ship's chief mechanic, Nissim Samuel, had erred in going ahead with an inspection of the ship's engines when they knew navy divers were in the water. It also found Samuel was responsible for not implementing procedures to prevent the operation of the engines. Samuel, Golan, and Nissim Nair, the ship's third officer, are currently on trial for negligent manslaughter in the incident.

Turkish FM meets with businessmen

Israeli and Palestinian businessmen met with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem yesterday in Jerusalem to discuss the possibility of Turkish counterparts participating as a third party in joint ventures. The businessmen are involved in the Dor Shalom business forum established recently to promote Israeli-Palestinian commercial ties. The participants suggested to Cem that the group hold a meeting in Turkey for those interested in joint projects, especially in infrastructure, water networks, and telecommunications in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Militant leader urges holy war against US, Israel

Moslem militant groups have agreed that a holy war against the US and Israel is a religious duty, a leading Egyptian militant was quoted yesterday as saying. Ayman al-Zawahiri, considered the leader of al-Jihad, successor of the group that assassinated Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, said the world "Moslem movement" has no other choice but to wage war against the US "because it humiliates all Moslems."

Argentine Jews to build memorial at bombing site

Jewish businessmen plan to build a memorial to the 29 people killed in a 1992 bombing that destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, a spokesman for the group said yesterday. The businessmen bought the land from a firm that had planned to build a shopping center at the downtown Buenos Aires site where the four-story building once stood. "Some members of the Jewish community thought that was an insult to the memory of the dead, to their relatives and the survivors," Carlos Susevich said.

The privately funded project will include a 1,500-square-meter plaza with a monument and later a cultural center. Susevich said. The inauguration is set for March 17, 1999, the seventh anniversary of the attack.

First of 3 Israeli subs launched in Germany

The last of three diesel submarines Israel has bought from Germany was launched yesterday in a ceremony in Andam. The submarine *Tekuma*, or renewal, was launched at the TNSW docks in a ceremony attended by Defense Ministry director-general Ilan Biran and other officials, as well as navy commanders. Executives of the submarine contractor, Thyssen-HDW, also attended. *Tekuma* is the last of three Dolphin-class diesel submarines Israel will receive from Germany. It is still undergoing tests in Germany and is expected to arrive in Israel next summer.

Mofaz's immediate challenges



Changing

One of Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz's most obvious first tasks as IDF chief of general staff is to shed any impression that he is going to be a "yes-man" to his benefactor, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

A talented, courageous and experienced commander, Mofaz enters the second floor office of the General Staff headquarters with the burden of facing a public

and general staff who feel there was someone perhaps more qualified for the job: Matan Vilnai.

When he gathered his General Staff for its first meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon, he laid out his credo.

It was said to be not so much a description of his vision for the IDF of the 20th century, as a plea to his fellow officers to work together.

His immediate challenges will be to complete the reshuffle of his general staff and he is expected to promote at least four brigadier generals. He must work to consolidate a multi-year program and secure a defense budget.

These are the areas where he will be able to gauge whether he is Mordechai's lackey or strong enough to stand on his own. It will be interesting to see whether he plans to forge a working dialogue with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, something his predecessor did not have.

Furthermore, when Defense

ANALYSIS

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that Mofaz's success is the success of all us, he really meant Mofaz's success was Mordechai's success.

Mofaz will be given his period of grace. But if he turns out to be less than a success, it will help boost the impression that Mordechai's selection of Mofaz was clouded by a personal grudge against Vilnai.

In the longer term, Mofaz's challenges to reshape the IDF to meet the changing threats against Israel are most pertinent. He must implement the updated defense doctrine being drafted now in the Defense Ministry and work to confront the growing threat of surface-to-surface missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

Mofaz's tenure will most likely

be one of the most complicated, since Israel is entering an era where states which have no common border with it can threaten the very existence of the country.

Protection and long-arm deterrence are expensive, but the defense budget is dwindling more and more each year as the running costs of the IDF grow. Mofaz will need to lead the IDF in making some drastic cuts in manpower, reducing rear units and staff officers.

Lebanon will simmer, but the overriding concern will be the clock ticking away in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority appears to be waiting for May 1999 to declare an independent state.

Mofaz's IDF must be able to provide the government, whoever it may comprise, with the freedom, strength and options to decide how it will handle such a scenario.

Rabin to Shahak: Choose Labor

Leah Rabin, widow of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, called on former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak to join the Labor Party, saying his natural place was in Labor's leadership.

She conceded, however, that she hadn't discussed this with Shahak and has no clue as to his plans. President Ezer Weizman urged Shahak to "take his place in shaping the state and assume a public or political position."

However, nobody in Labor's leadership appears to know whether Shahak intends to enter politics.

Michal Yudejman

Probe: City, contractors to blame for collapse of school roof

The committee that investigated the recent gym roof collapse at a Beersheba school in which two pupils, Shlomi Toledo and Lior Caballo died, found a systematic failure in how the construction was handled, Channel One reported last night.

The committee's findings placed most of the responsibility on the Beersheba municipality, and contractors who were working on renovations at the school. But the report did not contain substantive criticism of the Education Ministry.

The collapse was a result of an overall failure in construction, the report said. Tremendous amounts of cement, much more than permissible, were dumped on the roof and the city failed to supervise the renovation. Moreover, the contractor didn't have a license, the building's frame was not inspected before the work was done and there was no coordination between the contractor and the city's safety committee.

Amos Bar-Am, who conducted the probe, was shown on television, handing the findings to Education Ministry director-general Ben-Zion Dell.

Dell said that "this will be passed on to the minister for his decision."

Dalia Toledo, Shlomi's mother said: "I hope that whoever is guilty will pay the heaviest price." (Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim)



South African deputy foreign minister meets Netanyahu

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu shakes hands with South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad during a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday, on the first day of Pahad's official visit to Israel. Pahad is the highest-ranking South African official to visit Israel since Nelson Mandela took power.

(AP)

Swiss diplomat blasts NY finance chief for 'intimidation tactics'

BERN (AP) — The Swiss diplomat heading the country's task force on its wartime past yesterday accused New York City's finance chief of "manipulations" and "intimidation tactics" in the controversy over Holocaust assets.

New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi was "in clear contradiction with the facts" to claim the Swiss government had broken a promise to take part in a settle-

ment, said Thomas Borer.

In a strongly worded letter to Hevesi, Borer rejected Hevesi's assertion last week that the Swiss government was "misleading millions of Swiss." Borer denied that the Swiss government had ever agreed to take part in negotiations.

"Such manipulations typify the way the Swiss Switzerland has been treated by some quarters since the

beginning of the controversy," Borer said.

Hevesi said a commission he chairs advising hundreds of city and state finance officials had decided to recommend sanctions after a Swiss government representative said Switzerland "will never, ever" participate in negotiating a settlement of Holocaust survivors' claims against Swiss banks.

MEDIATOR

Continued from Page 1

He described the terrain to be "nominally Palestinian" as a totally unpopulated region in which the IDF does not maintain any fixed positions. "But it would retain the right to enter in case of Palestinian activity deemed inimical to Israeli security," he said.

For example, he said any new construction would have to be based on "mutual consent," with Israel having veto power in this domain. This formula, the official said, was developed by US envoy Dennis Ross as a convenient way to satisfy the PA desire to see a larger IDF pullback, while assuring Israel of "all the security you want."

He said, however, the PA has not agreed to this idea and implied that the US intermediaries might eventually abandon it for that reason.

In a telephone call Wednesday, Albright assured PA Chairman Yasser Arafat she would reject any Israeli amendments to the US bridging proposal for the redeployment, Palestinian sources said yesterday. The sources said Albright acknowledged that Netanyahu was seeking revisions in the plan.

"Secretary Albright informed President Arafat in a telephone call on Wednesday that the US administration will not amend or change its

initiative," Tayeb Abdel Rahim, the general secretary of the Palestinian presidency, told Reuters.

"The Palestinian Authority adheres to the American initiative and rejects any changes," he added.

At a news conference in Ramallah yesterday, PA Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi said the trip to the US by Erekat and Shaath would not change anything. She said the PA will not reopen issues already settled with the US.

"It seems that the US is virtually unable to deal with Netanyahu and this affects its credibility, influence and interests," she said. "The visit of Erekat and Shaath will be short and is meant only to listen to what Albright has to say."

Albright said the PA has rejected Netanyahu's conditions for an IDF redeployment, including the convening of the Palestine National Council to amend the Palestinian Covenant and a multi-stage redeployment.

US contacts with the PA yesterday included a meeting between Arafat and US Consul-General John Herbst.

Palestinian sources said Arafat asserted that the Israeli refusal to accept the US plan is holding up the implementation of the interim accords.

Michal Yudejman, Steve Rodan, and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 270677 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 694879 won the car.

Tickets 810092, 494293, 411211, 082620, 212809, 422100, 284870 and 111632 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 41410, 00793, 02752, 22778, 95138, 58482, 51085, 33146, 84247, 03795, 39944, 27502, 73238, 66886, 47581, 17152, 56939, 04667 and 79374 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 813, 752, 996 and 01, 70, 23 won NIS 30.

Tickets ending in 04 and 58 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 7 and 0 won NIS 10.

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A Hotbed of "Left"-Overs

Ruth Matar

discusses with her guests the question of impartial justice under a new regime, emanating from the A.G.'s office. Has anything changed?

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The wedding of David Zev, son of Helen and Malcolm Harris, and Debbie, daughter of Adrienne and Arthur Rulnick, took place last night in Jerusalem.

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77 Lebanese accused of spying for Israel

By GIL HOFFMAN
and news agencies

The reported arrests in Lebanon of 17 Druze and Shi'ites for allegedly spying for Israel will be used by Syria as a propaganda tool, Yossi Olmert, a Syria specialist, predicted yesterday.

"This is good propaganda for Syria because now they can tell the Lebanese, the Syrian public, and the rest of the world that this is proof Israel is an untrustworthy aggressor in Lebanon," said Olmert, former director of the Government Press Office.

In Beirut yesterday, a security source said Lebanese authorities have charged 77 people with spying for Israel and accused them of providing intelligence on the

Lebanese and Syrian militaries.

The source said 17 of the suspects were arrested two weeks ago. The other suspects are still at large.

A statement by Lebanese military prosecutor Nasri Lahoud said the information conveyed to Israel was about Syrian military bases and airports, and troop movements in the eastern Bekaa valley.

Olmert said the timing of the arrests is especially good for Syria, because Damascus has been "nervous" about the possibility of diplomatic measures in Lebanon emanating from Israel's acceptance earlier this year of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

In the next few days some of the accused will be sentenced to death,

Olmert believes.

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy head of the General Security Service, said that from an intelligence standpoint, it is bad policy for an Israeli agent to know the identity of even one other person working for Israel, let alone more than 20.

"Anything is possible in Lebanon," Ezra said, "But sometimes pressure is put on people to say things."

Ezra told Army Radio: "It's hard to believe that this would be such a large ring because one of the basic principles in intelligence is not to reveal the identity of one man to another. You have to maintain compartmentalization, otherwise it could all collapse like a house of cards."

Senior government official:

Assad visit will boost French Middle East role

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Syrian President Hafez Assad's state visit to France next week will provide his official hosts with a golden opportunity to upgrade their involvement in the Middle East peace process, especially on the Israel-Syria and Israel-Lebanon tracks, a senior government source said yesterday.

It will enable President Jacques Chirac and his foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, to seek Assad's participation in a French-sponsored international conference in which the other main Arab participants would be Egypt, Jordan and the

Palestinian Authority.

The source said Israel did not expect to receive an invitation and has opposed this initiative from its inception.

But the possibility of a breakthrough in the impasse over Israel's offer to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 by withdrawing the IDF from the security zone in southern Lebanon was seen as a possible outcome of the impending dialogue between the French and Syrian heads of state.

Success in facilitating implementation of Resolution 425 by convincing Assad to approve the Lebanese Army's assumption of

responsibility for security in the south would be a major progression from France's role in expediting the recent exchange of Hizbullah prisoners and the remains of their colleagues for the body of Third Party Officer Itamar Ilyia.

Assad's stay in France will have an additional dimension: Chirac personally and the French public, especially the Jewish community, will expect him to clarify the whereabouts and status of fugitive Nazi SS Hauptsturmfuehrer Alois Brunner. Brunner was the wartime commandant of the dreaded Drancy concentration camp, from which more than 70,000 French Jews were

transported to Auschwitz.

France has a longstanding request for Brunner's extradition to stand trial for crimes against humanity. It is based on evidence that Brunner has been hiding in Syria since 1959.

During the run-up to Assad's arrival, major French newspapers have reactivated coverage of the Brunner case under giant headlines such as "The Man Responsible for the Death of 100,000 Jews."

Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld pointed out that Assad's visit is to coincide with the annual commemoration of the mass roundup of Jews by the Vichy French police July 16 and 17, 1942.

IDF demolishes W. Bank houses Posters decry compromise on graves

Protesters stoned soldiers as they demolished an illegally built home in Anata village yesterday. The soldiers used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the stone throwers. Several women reportedly were injured.

The house was demolished after the High Court of Justice rejected the residents' appeal to prevent its demolition.

The IDF demolished four other structures in the Ramallah area yesterday that were built without permits. Two warehouses and three partially built homes were destroyed yesterday. Civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said.

The other four buildings, located in El-Jib, Khirbat, Bir Naballah, and Safa, were not occupied and there were no dis-

turbances when they were demolished.

After the demolitions, some 100 Palestinians held a protest outside Beit-El.

Palestinians complain that Israel uses house demolitions as a political tool and refuses to issue building permits in areas of the West Bank it wants to keep under its control.

(News agencies)

By AMY KLEIN

Posters declaring Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert a "murderer" were tacked up in Mea She'arim yesterday.

The posters also called for renewed protests against work on the new road in Pisgat Ze'ev in northern Jerusalem.

Work on the road resumed this week after a six-month hiatus, following a ruling by the Jerusalem Rabbinical Council that any bones found on the route of the road may be moved and reburied elsewhere.

Following the ruling, the Moriah Construction company - the municipality's contractors - cleared an area for the bones to be reburied.

On Monday, the Antiquities Authority will begin exploratory work to determine the location and number of graves. The authority has thus far discovered five graves, but they expect to uncover many more. Only after they have located the graves will excavations begin.

As the posters indicate, however, some haredim do not accept the ruling.

The posters in Mea She'arim also criticized Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Uri Lupolianski from Degel Hatorah, who had received the ruling from the rabbinical council.

The posters were signed "The



Haredi men wearing sackcloth lead over 200 people in prayer in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim yesterday, during a demonstration against resumption of roadwork in the city's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood that some haredim say is desecrating ancient graves.

(Kosov Engler)

Committee for Guarding our Forefathers' Graves," and by the Atrah Kadisha, a volunteer haredi organization that fights grave des-

ecration. "I believe that this is a fringe group of people who do not understand the issue," said Aharon

Agasso, Lupolianski's assistant. "The rabbinical council gave us a halachic ruling, and we will follow that ruling."

Barak appoints new media aide

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak has made two key appointments in a bid to revitalize his political bureau: Aliza Goren, to be in charge of media and information and Yuval Frenkel as bureau chief.

The appointments aim to improve the functioning of Barak's bureau, upgrade his media image and strengthen his contact

with the party ranks.

Goren had worked as a spokeswoman for David Levy when he was housing minister, and was later a media adviser to prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

Today she works with the Peres Peace Center. Goren was appointed with Peres's blessing.

Tsali Reshef, who quit after six months as Barak's bureau chief, said: "I advised Goren to take the

job when she asked me. This is the most important position there is. It's not an easy or simple task, but I think she's a professional with many capabilities."

Frenkel, today the director-general of the Halamish housing company, is a Labor Party activist, who in 1992 contended for the post of party secretary-general and lost.

Barak's bureau hopes Frenkel will help improve Barak's relations with the party's grass roots.

Labor MKs tour Syrian border

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor MKs Yossi Beilin, Hagai Merom and Nissim Zivili toured the international border between Israel and Syria yesterday.

Merom said the tour, during which the MKs discussed security, water and disarmament issues which would be part of a peace agreement with Syria, was meant as a signal to Syria that negotiations must be resumed, but that Syria could not hope to return to the June 4 borders.

"We are bleeding on the Lebanese border, every week we hear of more casualties, and it's a question of utmost urgency to get our soldiers out of there," Merom said.

"The government is stuck [in the talks] with the Palestinians and we wanted to raise again the option of talks with Syria, where things can move forward much faster, since the serious debates already took place in the days of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin," he said.

"The three of us agree Syria should return to the international border and not to other places they invaded towards the Sea of Galilee or improved positions towards the Galilee settlements," he said.

Beilin and Zivili support a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, while Merom believes this move should be linked to a settlement with Syria.

Golan Heights residents had invited the MKs to tour the area "to learn and listen," Merom said. They were accompanied by a number of Golan settlers who support withdrawal.

Yigal Kipnis, a member of the Peace for the Golan movement, said 50 percent of Golan residents want peace with Syria and are willing to give up certain territories. He said this was proven in the last election when half of the Golan residents voted for Shimon Peres for prime minister.

The Golan settlers' committee was furious the Labor MKs' visit

was not coordinated with it and did not include meeting with settlers' leaders.

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Neeman spits in the wind - again

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman likes his challenges large. After chairing the committee that searched for a compromise formula on the conversion issue - a compromise that is still a long way from implementation - Neeman has now turned his attention to tax reform - his area of specialty.

But it is not going to be any easier for Neeman to convince the affluent that a capital gains tax is good and necessary; Yisrael Ba'aliya that doing away with tax exemptions for immigrants is positive; or Shas that taxing child allowances is fair, than it was trying to convince the haredim that they should sit in a conversion institute with Reform and Conservative rabbis.

Details of Neeman's vaunted tax-reform package have been leaking out in the press over the last couple of days. Among the main points is a reduction in the income tax rate, from 50 percent to 35%, for those in the middle- and higher-income brackets.

At the same time, new taxes will be levied on everything from stocks to provident fund accounts to income earned from renting out apartments to National Insurance Institute child allowances and old-age payments - revenues that have all been untaxed. In addition, various tax exemptions are slated to be taken away from new immi-

IN CONTEXT

By HELEN WEINER

grants and residents of development towns and settlements.

In general, some NIS 10 billion will - under this plan - be lost in reduced state revenues, but recouped by the new taxes. The government coffers will not increase or decrease dramatically, according to financial consultant and former Treasury director-general Yoram Gabai, but the reform would drastically change the structure of the economy.

Currently, Gabai said, high income tax is not only a disincentive to work, but also pushes up the price of services. Knowing that so much of their money is going to go to the taxman, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, accountants and other service providers simply raise their rates so they can take more money home.

The computer specialist does the same thing, and in an economy that is becoming more high-tech oriented, this is potentially very damaging, since if prices for high-tech services get too expensive here, investors can very well take their money elsewhere.

But a fundamental change in the structure of the economy is still

very much in the theoretical realm, Gabai said, since in the real world, coalition contingencies are likely to torpedo the plan before it ever gets off the ground.

"It seems a bit naive," Gabai said.

According to Gabai, it would take a very strong coalition to pass this kind of package, and no one has accused Prime Minister Netanyahu of having a strong coalition.

Moreover, the political interests stacked up against the plan are huge.

For instance, the haredi parties will likely fight to retain tax-free child allowance payments. Geshet will struggle to keep development town residents off the full-tax paying rolls, the NRP will want to do the same for residents of the settlements, and Yisrael Ba'aliya will want to continue the tax breaks for new immigrants.

And that's just the coalition.

The opposition and Histadrut can also be expected to try and scuttle the plan. The Histadrut, because of its heavy involvement in the provident funds, which are to be taxed, and the opposition, because of a natural desire to keep the coalition - two years from scheduled elections - from passing something that could possibly, if passed, prove both revolutionary and successful.



Give trance a chance

Some 10,000 demonstrators took to Tel Aviv's Kikar Rabin last night to protest recent police disruptions of trance parties. Police have claimed that these parties are forums for drug use and that some of the gatherings are held without proper permits. Police arrested 42 of the protesters for drugs-related charges.

(Text: Ofer Ronen-Abels and Irit; photo: Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

Israel Radio to air ads for Yarkon River clean-up

By LIAT COLLINS and AP

Israel Radio has decided to allow the Council for a Beautiful Israel to broadcast advertisements calling for a clean-up of the Yarkon River on the first anniversary of the Maccabiah bridge disaster.

Among other things, the campaign calls on those voting in the municipal elections in November to support candidates who give a clear answer about the future of the river. Israel Radio initially banned the campaign, saying it would transmit a political message, but then relented.

The anniversary of the disaster, in which four Australian athletes were killed and dozens wounded, falls on Tuesday.

The campaign, aimed in particular at Gush Dan residents, is an attempt to make the public more aware of the Yarkon's condition. A year after the disaster, the river is still suffering from tremendous ecological problems like those which caused the deaths and illnesses of the bridge collapse victims.

Meanwhile, the sister of Yotzi Benet, one of the athletes killed, met yesterday with President Ezer Weizman. Benet's family came to Israel this week to watch the trial of those charged in connection with the collapse, and to ask for compensation and a parliamentary inquiry into the tragedy.

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Police recommend indicting Salim

MK called on Palestinians to kill land dealers selling to Jews

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem police recommended yesterday that Hadash's chairman, MK Salah Salim, be tried for incitement to murder for comments he made during a tour in the Old City by the Knesset Interior Committee.

Police opened an investigation three weeks ago, following a call by Salim for the renewal of Palestinian killings of those who sell land to Jews.

"Why have the Palestinians stopped eliminating land dealers? They should be killed off and made

to meatballs!" Salim said during a screaming match at the Ateret Cohanim excavation site.

Salim subsequently sent a letter to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, saying that the remarks were made in the heat of an argument and that "I have no intention of inciting the

murder of any person, no matter what his opinions and activities."

Police said yesterday that following Salim's refusal to cooperate in the investigation, the recommendation was reached to bring him to trial.

Hadash spokesperson Nissan

Dror said that Salim did show up for questioning two weeks ago, but when a group of "Kahane people" surrounded him, he left.

"This is clearly a politically-motivated investigation against MK Salim, because he is Arab and communist," said Dror.

New technology makes possible Internet 'tour' of Israel Museum exhibit

By JUDY SIEGEL

Internet users around the world can now enjoy a virtual "tour" of the Israel Museum's exhibit "In the Light of the Menorah: Story of A Symbol" without getting up from their chair or even buying a ticket.

The real-time interactive, photo-realistic museum experience - reportedly the first in the world - has been made possible by software developed at WebGlide, a start-up company in Bnei Brak.

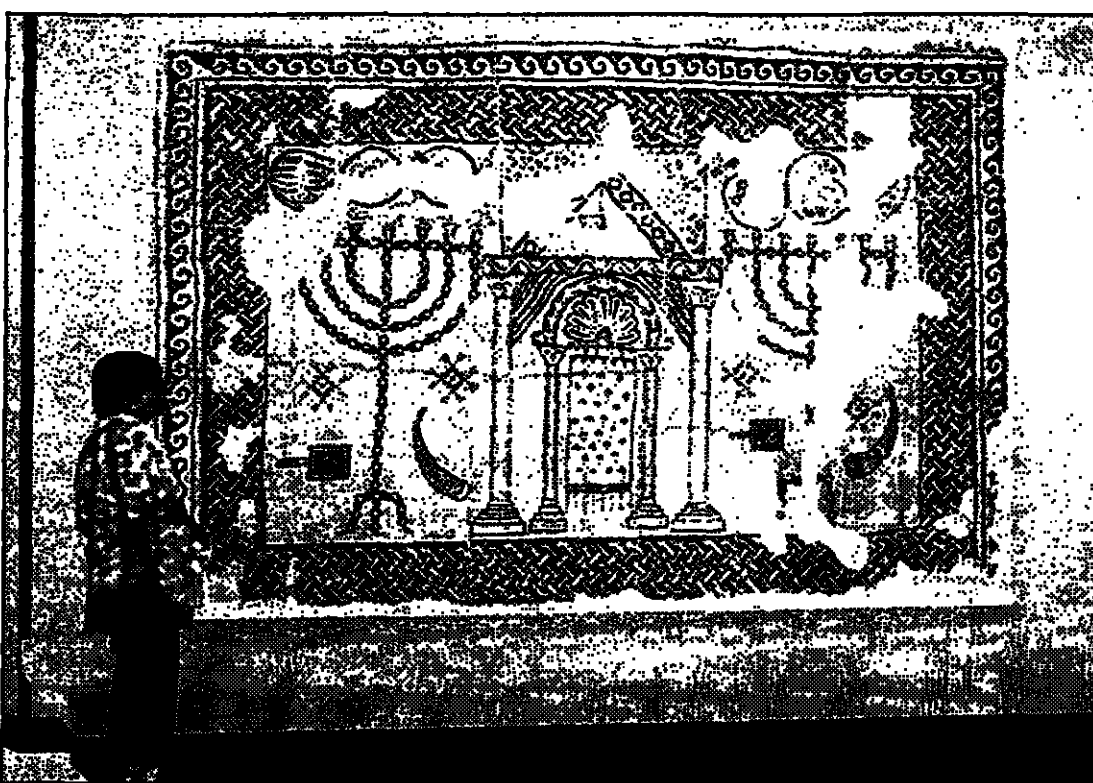
The real exhibition, comprising 300 drawings, pieces of sculpture, prints and even plants on the theme of the seven-branched Jewish candelabrum, opened last Independence Day.

It is scheduled to be on show at the Weisbord Pavilion until September 1.

But 80 of the objects were mounted in cyberspace yesterday, and they will hang there indefinitely.

Unlike primitive on-line museum tours that use video films, WebGlide technology created an imaginary gallery that exists nowhere, but the pieces of artwork are actually from the collection and displayed on the screen with very high resolution.

Users enter the site (via a PC-



A mosaic floor decorated with menorahs, shofarot, and a depiction of a holy ark, from a Byzantine-era synagogue in Beit She'an, is one of the 80 displays on the Israel Museum's Internet tour of its 'In the Light of the Menorah' exhibition.

compatible computer, not a Mac) at <http://www.imj.org.il/vrmeno>

and automatically download 300 kilobytes of free plug-ins on a

one-time basis in order to go on the tour.

Launch of Technion satellite delayed again

By DAVID RUDGE

The long-awaited launch of the Technion's Gurwin TechSat II micro-satellite was deferred for a second time yesterday due to technical reasons and has been rescheduled for today.

The Russian Zenith rocket, which is set to put the satellite and five others into orbit, is to blast off this morning from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan. The original date had been set for June 23 or 24, but the launch was postponed after the discovery of what were described as technical problems with the rocket.

The latest hold-up has increased tension among employees from several high-tech companies who have invested seven years of work on the \$8 million project.

An attempt three years ago to put the first Gurwin TechSat into space ended in failure. The launch vehicle on that occasion, a converted Russian SS-25 inter-continental ballistic missile, did not reach orbit altitude and the module with the satellite and others aboard crashed back to Earth.

"This new delay does not fill us with a great deal of confidence, on the one hand," Technion spokesman Amir Zmora said. "On the other, there is the feeling that the Russian space agency is doing everything possible to ensure that the launch will be successful."

NEWS

in brief

Defense rests in US teen's extradition hearing

David Liba'i, representing the American teenager wanted for murder in Maryland delivered six hours of closing arguments in his client's extradition hearings. The youth sat in Jerusalem District Court handcuffed and shackled. When asked by a reporter during a recess whether he wanted to say something, he laughed and shook his head. The youth fled here after the killing last September, and is claiming Israeli citizenship in an attempt to prevent his extradition. His lawyers argue that his father, who was born here, is a citizen, and that the status was automatically passed on to him. But prosecutors say his father lost his citizenship because he moved to the US in 1950, before the country's citizenship law went into effect. AP

Man gets 10 years for raping 14-year-old

Ziv Ben-Lavi, of Rishon LeZion, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the Tel Aviv District Court for raping a 14-year-old. Ben-Lavi dragged the girl into his car and took her to his apartment, where he raped her. The trial had come to a dramatic conclusion during the last hearing, when, as the girl took the stand to testify, Ben-Lavi stood up and confessed to the rape in open court. *Itim*

Nir remand extended by one day

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by one day the remand of Netanel Nir, 19, who is believed by police to have attacked Arabs and destroyed property in Hebron. Nir's remand has been in effect since Sunday, but Judge Shimon Feinberg said that police would have to either charge him today or release him.

According to police, Nir was part of a group of five youths that first attacked two Arab bicyclists near Machpela Cave in Hebron. Later, three of the young men, wearing keffiyehs and riding horses, used chains to smash windshields. *Amy Klein*

Bus driver sentenced for reckless driving

The Haifa Magistrate's Court sentenced Avraham Ben-Haim, a 52-year-old Haifa bus driver, to 10 days' imprisonment or a NIS 1,000 fine and suspended his driver's license for three months, after convicting him of driving recklessly. In March of last year, Ben-Haim stopped his bus and Ziona Buhbut, 80, got off the bus via the back door. Ben-Haim drove away from the bus stop, with the back door open and Buhbut's foot still on the stairs. She fell to the sidewalk and was injured; a month after the accident she died. Ben-Haim was not charged with any responsibility for the death. Nonetheless, prosecutors asked that he be given a serious sentence because he had a record of several traffic violations. *Itim*

Helicopter crashes in Herzliya

A helicopter crashed at Herzliya airport yesterday morning shortly after takeoff. The helicopter, a crop duster owned by the Chemnir company, hit another helicopter as it was moving down the runway, according to an initial investigation. It left the ground anyway, but immediately crashed. The pilot and one passenger were lightly injured and taken to Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. *Itim*

Australian Jews split over publication of rightist party's membership list

CANBERRA (AP) - Holocaust survivors expressed their dismay yesterday at a Jewish magazine's decision to publish a list of the names and suburbs of a right-wing party's members, saying that Jews of all people would not appreciate "lists."

Marika Weinberger, a survivor of Auschwitz and president of the Australian Jewish Holocaust Survivors, said she was very distressed by the publication.

"The countries we have come from, those of us who survived, came to Australia because privacy was something we cherished and didn't have," Weinberger said. "We know the implications of what happens when lists, any lists, are published and handed over to people."

The decision by *The Australian-Israeli Review*, a private pro-Israeli publication, to publish the list of 2,000 members of the right-wing populist One Nation party has split

the 100,000-strong Jewish community. While all opposed the principles of One Nation, some said the publication was undemocratic and would cause an unnecessary and possibly violent backlash against the Jewish community.

But publisher Mark Leibler defended the decision, although he confirmed no more names would be published as originally promised. The magazine said the list was provided by senior One Nation figures dissatisfied with the control wielded by director David Ettridge and party founder Pauline Hanson's adviser, David Oldfield.

Oldfield, One Nation's spokesman, said the publication was disgraceful. "I am sure that everywhere there are decent members of the Jewish community who are mortified at the persecution, at the potential vilification which has been created by the *Australian-Israeli Review*."

NY gov. signs bill to punish firms who don't resolve Holocaust-era insurance claims

NEW YORK (AP) - Gov. George Pataki signed a bill that would punish European insurance companies if they fail to resolve wartime claims of Holocaust victims.

"Some people were told, 'Oh, we can't pay the policy - there's no death certificate.' Can you imagine, for someone who died in Auschwitz?" Pataki said Wednesday before signing legislation designed to give teeth to a worldwide effort to trace the insurance funds.

The bill would require investigation of Holocaust insurance claims, ease standards for substantiating claims and slap penalties on carriers that stonewall.

The legislation would subject European-based insurance companies that don't cooperate to probes

and fines still to be determined by the New York insurance superintendent.

Many of the world's major insurance firms have offices licensed or regulated in New York, which has the largest community of Holocaust survivors in America.

The state also is spearheading the formation of an international commission to probe war-era insurance fraud amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, said John Calagna, spokesman for the state's insurance superintendent.

The bill was signed into law 10 months after Pataki opened a Manhattan office to help Holocaust victims recover assets allegedly withheld by Swiss banks and European insurance companies.

Work continues to save vultures

By LIAT COLLINS

Conservationists are considering a second rescue effort today to save fledgling vultures stranded in their nests in the wake of the mass poisonings on the Golan Heights last week. The rescue measures involve rappelling down mountain sides to the isolated spot where the parent birds built the nests.

"We have put off this rescue to the last minute because we are concerned that some of the birds which are still unable to fly will try to jump from the nest in panic as we approach," said Ohad Hatzofe, director of the Vulture Reintroduction and Conservation

Project of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. "We wanted to see if the older ones wouldn't fly of their own accord in the meantime before risking disturbing them."

A week after a poison-laced calf and chickens were put out as bait, presumably by a cattle farmer trying illegally to kill wolves, the known death toll among wild animals has grown to 27 Griffon vultures, three Egyptian vultures, seven jackals, three wild boar, one wild cat and one domestic cat.

"But this is only an indication because this is only the larger animals we found and does not include the figures for birds which

might have died beyond the country's borders and animals we didn't find," said Hatzofe.

A spokesman for the Nature Protection and National Parks Authority said their investigation with the police into the poisoning is continuing.

Meanwhile, this week the Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center said two dead dolphins had been discovered on the northern coast in the last two months, one in Acre and the other at Ma'agan Michael. They were too badly decomposed for an autopsy that could establish cause of death although one showed signs of having been caught in a net.

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Restricted 103 Service on Friday

On Friday, July 10, maintenance work and upgrading will be carried out on our central computer. As a result, the 103 Service will be available, only for the notification of outages.

We apologize for the temporary inconvenience caused.



Green, white and gold

Former Irish prime minister John Bruton had a clear idea of why "the troubles" in Northern Ireland are so persistent.

"It is our failure to address the concerns of the Unionist Protestants in Northern Ireland that's at the root of the Irish problem... I want to be the Irish prime minister that deals with that and changes that. We in the republic have to understand our Protestant countrymen."

That was three years ago - Bruton had invited me to breakfast with him in Tel Aviv after attending the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin. He exited the political scene not long afterwards, dealing with nothing and changing nothing.

I disagreed with Bruton's analysis at the time, but was too polite to say it seemed to be facing backwards.

Conor Cruise O'Brien more astutely defined being Irish as "not primarily a question of birth or language; it is the condition of being involved in the Irish situation - and usually of being mauled by it."

After all, even the flag of the republic attempts to acknowledge the two communities - green and orange, with the white between the two colors a plea for peace. It is a flag the Unionists detest. (Prejudice isn't one way. My late father refused to call the color orange and referred to his beloved flag as "the green, white and gold.")

Dutch trash Scots

This week extremists hiding behind the (non-violent) Unionist Orange Lodges have been hell-bent on wrecking Ireland's peace process, and it is possible to say, Mr. Bruton, the Irish understand them all only too well. The hard-line Orangemen have been dragged kicking and screaming, inch by inch over 30 years, back from their historic repression of the nationalists living in the province, to being force-fed the Belfast peace agreement last April.

The new violence and church-burning that accompany this year's July marching season is an attempt to burn a peace treaty resoundingly endorsed in two referendums, and to wreck a newly elected assembly they don't like.

Who are the Orangemen of Ireland? The name comes from William of Orange (in Netherlands) who defeated the Scottish James II at the Battle of the Boyne, securing the Protestant ascendancy in Britain and 300 years of strife in Ireland. (Ironically, the great Protestant victory site is now deep in the Irish republic.)

This week saw one of the biggest gatherings ever of Orangemen in Northern Ireland as they besieged the town of Drumcree. They are defying a legitimate ban by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission on their marching there.

Marked man

The first Orange parade was held on July 12, 1796. 10

months after the Orange Order was founded. Since then the marches, noisy and colorful but aggressively triumphalist, have been held each year.

The order itself has never used or condoned violence, but its marches have nonetheless sparked clashes in Catholic areas over the years. Such clashes carry the danger of tit-for-tat sectarian warfare -

hence the Parades Commission's attempts to divert the marchers from flashpoint roads. Orangemen see such restrictions as undermining their centuries-old traditions and freedom of assembly.

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's 1995 publication "200 Years of Orangeism" says:

"The Orange Order is a Protestant Brotherhood, pledged to defend the Reformed faith against all errors and encroachments." Catholics are strictly barred from membership.

It also says: "The Orange Order is a patriotic brotherhood." That patriotism is not Irish, but British. Irish nationalism is strongly opposed.

The book lists the Twelve Marks of an Orangeman, which include: Christian; Protestant; loyal to the Crown; good citizen; good neighbor; leader; vigilant; good parent; honoring heritage; a brother. And finally, ladies, an Orangeman is "a gentleman, who respects the sanctity of women."

But Orangeism isn't all dour Presbyterian self-righteousness. The Protestant crowds besieging Drumcree took a night off from politics on Tuesday to huddle around portable televisions and cheer on their brotherly Orange Dutch against the - yes - green and gold of Brazil, in the Mondial semi-final. Heaven knows what the cool modern Dutchers think of being cheered on by massed ranks of orange sashes camped out on a Northern Irish hillside because their king walloped a Scot in 1690.

When it isn't tragic, the Irish scene is as comically confusing as it is colorful, as this old jingle captures: "King William was a Dutchman, same as Kruger, I suppose. He was married to a papist, and he had a Roman nose. Yet in yearly jubilation many worthy people join 'cause a Dutchman beat a Scotsman at the Irish river Boyne."

NOTE to readers: The Irish Embassy has drawn my attention to a special supplement produced by *The Irish Times* on June 23 titled "Israel and Ireland," in honor of Israel's 50th anniversary. This excellent supplement, produced by foreign editor Paul Gillespie, covers every aspect of bilateral history, cultural and diplomatic relations, business, and the Irish Jewish community at home and in Israel. For anyone collecting anniversary memorabilia, the address is: The Irish Times, 13 D'Olier St. Dublin 2. (Please do not ask the embassy for copies.)

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

No solution after meeting with

BELFAST, Ireland (AP) - Leaders of the Orange Order met with Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday but found no solution to a showdown over a blocked march which has triggered five nights of violence in Northern Ireland.

Some Orange leaders condemned the continuing attacks on police officers and Catholic homes, but they continued to refuse to meet with the leader of their Catholic opponents on the Garvaghy Road in Portadown.

Northern Ireland's Parades Commission barred some 1,400 Orangemen from Portadown from following their traditional route down the Garvaghy Road, now a Catholic area, and police and soldiers stopped the march at the rural Drumcree church on Sunday.

Police fired plastic bullets overnight to repel a group of march supporters who felled trees to improvise a bridge over a line of barbed wire blocking the marchers. No injuries were reported.

Blair's spokesman said the meeting with four Orange leaders was constructive, but said the prime minister was "not in a position to reverse the decision of the Parades Commission." The Portadown march had been expected to be the first severe test of the new spirit of compromise in Northern Ireland, where more than 70 percent of the voters last month endorsed a new form of local government in which Catholics and Protestants would share power.

Earlier yesterday, David McNarry, a member of the Orange Order's strategy committee, said Protestant unionists could, "if we wish, put our minds to paralyzing this country in a matter of hours."

The delegation which met Blair in London took a more conciliatory line. "Who gains from that?" said Rev. William Bingham, a chaplain to the order. "We love our country - we are not in the business of bringing our country to rack and ruin."

Martin McGuinness, a leader of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party,



Orange Order officials (from left) George Patton, County Grand Master Dennis Watson, Rev. William Bingham and Stephen McLaughlin make their way to Number 10 Downing Street to discuss the standoff at Garvaghy Road in Portadown with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

met with Garvaghy Road residents yesterday morning and said they were determined to resist the march.

"It's time for the Orange Order, for unionism, to waken up," McGuinness said. "The reality is that the people that we represent are no longer going to be second-class citizens in their own country."

Orangemen have refused to meet the leader of the Garvaghy Road protesters, Brendan

MacCionnaith, who served a prison term for Irish Republican Army offenses. Police and soldiers forced the march through protesters in the past three years, though in 1996 they stopped the march for four days before relenting in the face of spreading Protestant violence.

Overnight, police and soldiers were the target of gunfire and bombs at Newtownabbey, 8 km. north of Belfast, and in Portadown, and stolen vehicles

were set afire. Six men were arrested, but police said it was the quietest night since Sunday.

At midday yesterday, the Royal Ulster Constabulary said there had been 64 attacks on police officers and 50 officers injured since Sunday. There had been 125 arrests, and more than 500 gasoline bomb attacks. Upwards of 8,000 Orange marchers and supporters were massed near the church Wednesday night.

Security forces expect tension to

increase amid Protestant celebrations of the 12th of July, the anniversary of the Protestant King William's victory over the Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

Across the province, members of the Orange Order will march on Monday march with fife and drum - marches which many Catholics regard as swaggering demonstrations of Protestant dominance.

Nigerian army rulers ponder exit from power

By JOHN CHIAHMEMEN

ABUJA (Reuters) - Nigeria's military rulers were meeting for a second day yesterday to discuss a plan to restore civilian rule and free remaining political detainees, national radio said.

Nigerians also anxiously awaited the outcome of an autopsy on opposition leader Nigerian Moshood Abiola, whose sudden death in detention triggered rioting in which at least a score of people were killed.

Officials at the presidential villa said the Provisional Ruling Council of Africa's most populous nation were due to meet at midday and a statement would probably follow.

The council had met on Wednesday in the capital Abuja

under military ruler Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar and debated until well after midnight.

"What happens to the remaining political detainees and the yet-to-be-announced transition program were discussed," said the state-run radio.

"The fate of coup plotters will also be determined," said one official, referring to former Nigerian number two Lt.-Gen. Oladipo Diya and several others found guilty of plotting to topple Abubakar's predecessor.

The oil-producing country was thrown into political confusion after the deaths a month apart of dictator Sani Abacha on June 8 and of Abiola on Tuesday.

Abiola, who most Nigerians believe was elected president in 1993, collapsed and died of a

apparent heart attack while meeting a US delegation to discuss the military government's conditions for his release from prison.

Abacha's successor, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, pressed by Nigeria's Western friends to get the country on track to democracy, quickly freed a number of political prisoners and had been widely expected to order Abiola's release.

Abubakar on Wednesday appealed for calm following riots that have killed at least a score in Abiola's southwestern home region, but his speech gave no hint of how the army plans to restore civilian rule to the nation of 104 million.

Nor did he mention the release of any more detainees. So far only about 30 have been set free.

Foreign delegations' and local politicians have demanded the release of all political prisoners, variously estimated to be about 200.

Abiola's personal physician said the autopsy could begin within hours of the arrival of a team of five foreign pathologists who were expected late yesterday. This means that Abiola's burial in Lagos is unlikely to take place before today.

"Soon after the pathologists arrive they will meet together to decide on the format for the autopsy," Ore Falomo told Reuters in Lagos.

"We expect this autopsy to take between three and four hours and soon afterwards a statement will be made."

Newspapers reported death tolls

of between 24 and 45 from the outbreak of anger which tore through southwestern Nigeria after news broke of Abiola's death.

Reuters confirmed 19 dead through eyewitness accounts.

Trying to forestall any further violent outbreaks as the funeral rites stir emotions in Lagos, a city of eight million, and other parts of the southwest, Abubakar appealed for calm.

"Our national grief cannot be assuaged by recourse to lawlessness, threat to lives, and wanton destruction of innocent people's property," Abubakar, 56, said.

"We must all determine to give him a dignified burial in an atmosphere of appropriate solemnity and peace as he would have wished."

Parker Bowles meets with Prince William

LONDON (Reuters) - Prince Charles's lover Camilla Parker Bowles has met his son Prince William for the first time, fuelling speculation that the woman in the shadows is about to emerge as Charles's consort.

A spokeswoman for Prince Charles confirmed the meeting

took place last month between 16-year-old Prince William and Parker Bowles. Her adultery with Charles was blamed for breaking up his marriage to William's late mother, Princess Diana.

But the palace spokesman said the meeting was a private matter and expressed the wish that it "not give

rise to acres of intrusive gossip."

That did not stop Britain's royalty-obsessed newspapers splashing the story all over their front pages, with two of them, the *Mirror* and the *Sun*, claiming a world exclusive.

"Camilla was extremely nervous...but very relieved she'd finally met Prince William," the *Mirror* announced, saying the first get-together on June 12 was accidental when William bumped into Camilla "by chance" at his father's London palace.

The *Sun* said Parker Bowles had been "trembling like a leaf," and once the 30-minute session with William was over, declared: "I need a gin and tonic." Charles's younger son, Prince Harry, 13, is expected to be introduced to Parker Bowles soon. "It is the first clear sign that Camilla, who Charles has been close to for 25 years, could be emerging as his future consort," the *Mirror* said.

Opinion polls consistently show strong opposition to the heir to the throne marrying Parker Bowles and any suggestion that she might one day become Queen Camilla. But after yesterday's news, one of Britain's leading bookmakers announced it had cut the odds about Charles marrying her by the end of next year from 10/1 to 5/1. The bookmaker also cut the odds about the pair marrying in the year 2,000 - from 7/1 to 3/1.

China urges Taiwan to enter talks

BEIJING (Reuters) - China yesterday stepped up pressure on Taiwan to open political talks on its future, saying US President Bill Clinton's public opposition to independence for the island had created a positive atmosphere.

"We place importance on the commitments made by the American side because of their positive implications for the resolution of the Taiwan question," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "We hope that Taiwan authorities will get a clear understanding of the situation, face reality and place importance on the national interest," Tang Guoqiang told a news conference.

Tang said he hoped Taiwan would "respond to our initiative of holding political talks as soon as possible."

Clinton publicly stated support for Beijing's "three nos" policy on Taiwan during his June 25-July 3 visit to China. The policy states no support for Taiwan independence, no support for "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas" and no support for Taiwan's entry to international bodies that accept only sovereign states as members.

Clinton himself had never

before stated that policy, although his aides had previously laid it out clearly. The United States is Taiwan's main supporter, and its biggest arms supplier.

Many in Taipei believe that Clinton has tied the island's hands with his comments. They say the destiny of Taiwan should rest with its 21 million people, who live in a flourishing democracy.

Beijing is keen to kick off political talks aimed at reunification with Taiwan, but Taipei is prepared only to discuss practical issues between the two sides such as fishing rights. However, Taiwan agreed yesterday to a visit by a senior negotiator from China in a fresh bid to prepare for resumption of high-level dialogue between the two rivals after a three-year freeze.

In a letter to its mainland counterpart, the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, Taipei's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation said the association deputy secretary general Li Yafei could visit Taiwan from July 24-31 as earlier proposed.

"We hope the sides can use Li's visit to further exchange views on [the foundation] chairman Koo Chen-fu's visit to mainland China in September," Jan Jyh-hong, deputy secretary and spokesman of the foundation, told reporters.

In June, the mainland body invited Koo to visit China between September and October, and Koo later said he was planning to go in mid-September.

The two groups handle bilateral talks between Nationalist-ruled Taiwan and Communist China in the absence of official contacts.

In 1993, the chairman of the two cross-strait bodies - Koo and his mainland counterpart Wang Daohan - held a landmark meeting in Singapore.

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved sister

CAROLE PITLUK

on July 9, 1998.

Deeply mourned and very sadly missed by her loving brothers and sisters:

Len and Ros
Dennis and Helen
Myra and Ian
Kenny and Marcelle
and all her nieces and nephews

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

CAROLE PITLUK

on July 9, 1998.

Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her loving:

Husband Louis, children Gavin and Tanya,
Roy and Esti, Allan and Limor
and grandchildren

The funeral will take place at 11:30 a.m. today,
Friday, July 10, at the new Gordon Cemetery,
Shikun Hamizrah, Rishon LeZion.

We are very sad to announce that

JOANIE WATTS

of Scone, Australia

mother of Robbie Anna Hare and
grandmother of Emmett and Jessica
passed away on July 3.

The happiest time of her life was spent in Israel.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother

ELIZABETH BAKER SCHULMAN 77

Children: Sarah Anne Anes, David Schulman, Elinor Kolumbus
Grandchildren: Aviva Wulfsohn, Larry Piser, Sol and Scott Schulman, Micha Kolumbus

We express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of

CAROLE PITLUK

Our hearts are with the family

SPL WorldGroup

I announce the unveiling of the monument for my beloved husband

Dr. ERNEST (Abraham) SCHWARCZ

of Queens, New York

on Friday, July 17 (23 Tammuz) at 10 a.m.

at the Mount of Olives Cemetery.

We shall meet at the cemetery gate, near the Intercontinental Hotel.

A bus will leave from Binyanei Ha'uma at 9:15 a.m.

Marta Schwarcz

Handwritten signature: J. J. J. J. J.

Bomb kills 10, wounds 21 in Algiers

ALGIERS (Reuters) - A bomb ripped through a crowded market in a poor district of Algiers yesterday, killing 10 civilians and seriously wounding 21, security forces said.

The casualty toll was given in a statement read on state-run radio. Residents said the bomb, hidden in a black bag, exploded at a flea market in Oued Kenich, a poor neighborhood which was thronged with people peddling second-hand furniture and used spare parts.

"The bomb exploded at about 8:30 a.m., prompting panic with people screaming and running away for safety," one resident said.

State-run television showed Health Minister Yahia Guidoum comforting some of the wounded in a hospital. The minister was shown embracing a young man wounded in the leg and an elderly man with a face wound.

An earlier provisional casualty toll said eight of the wounded

were in critical condition.

Yesterday is part of the weekend in Algeria and markets are usually packed with shoppers.

The blast occurred a day after security forces shot dead seven Muslim rebels in a forest in Bouzareah, on the heights of Algiers.

The explosion was the latest in a series of recent bombings in or near the Algerian capital, a city of around 3.5 million.

A bomb ripped through a farm-

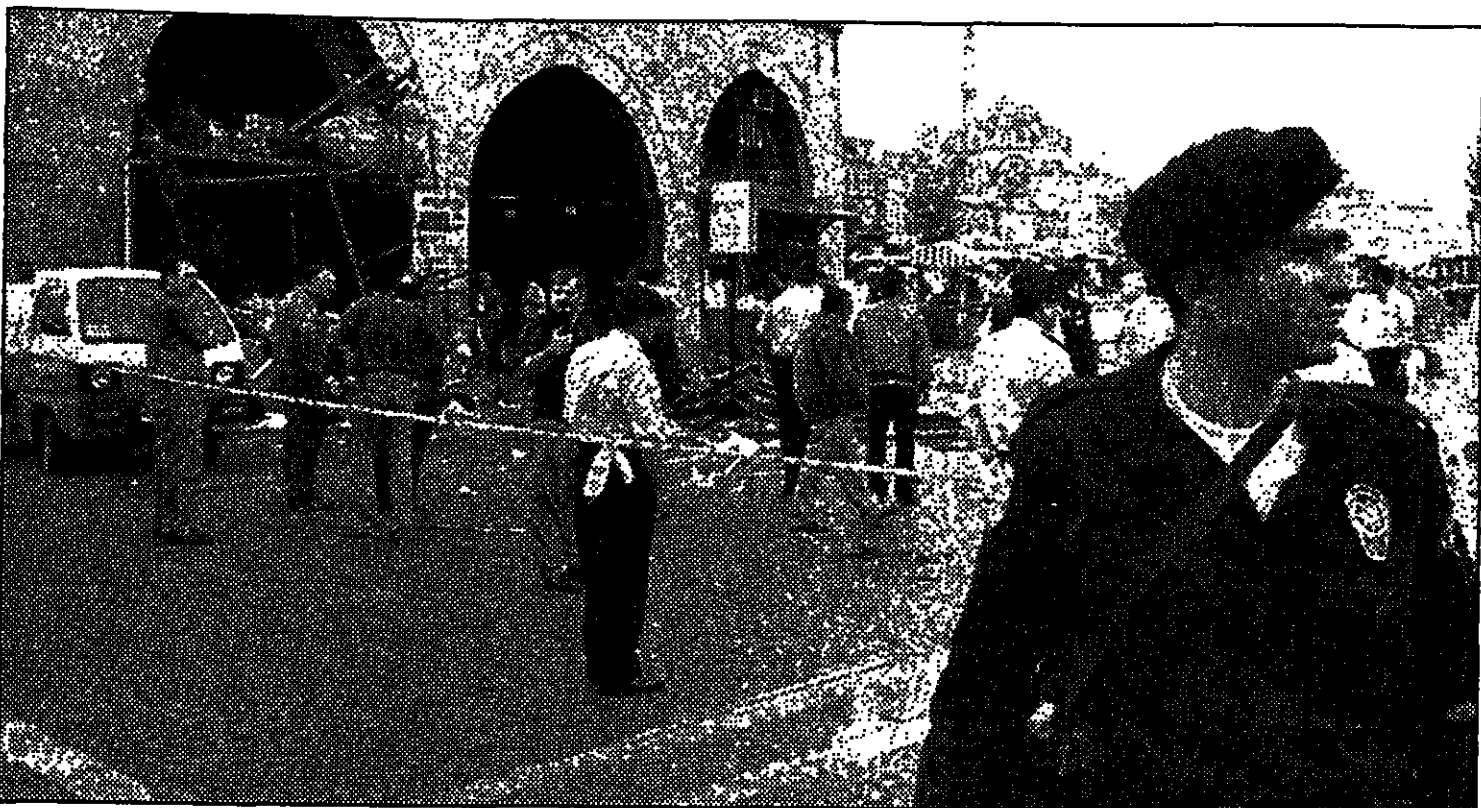
house on July 1, killing four people and wounding 14 in Ouled Bey hamlet, 70 km. south of Algiers. Three civilians died and 14 were wounded in a bomb explosion a day earlier in Ain Defla province, 130 km. southwest of Algiers. And at least 13 civilians perished and 31 were wounded in a bomb attack on a passenger train in Ain Defla three weeks ago.

Algerian markets have been targeted in previous bombings. At least 16 people were killed and 61

wounded on May 22 when a bomb exploded in a crowded open-air market in an Algiers suburb.

The government blamed Muslim rebels for most of the bombings.

Algeria has been racked by violence since early 1992 when the authorities scrapped a general election in which Islamic radicals had taken a commanding lead. Western estimates say more than 65,000 people have been killed since.



Six people were killed and many more injured in an explosion at a crowded tourist market yesterday in Istanbul.

Six killed in Turkey tourist site explosion

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - An explosion ripped through a crowded tourist market yesterday in Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city, killing six people and wounding scores more.

Police said a gas leak or a bomb was the cause.

"The explosion could have been caused by gas leaking from a canister or explosive materials left at the scene," the Anatolian agency quoted police chief Hasan Ozdemir as saying.

The blast went off at the doorway of the 17th-century Egyptian Bazaar, also known as the Spice

Market, on the banks of the Golden Horn waterway. Part of the monumental gateway collapsed, trapping people under the rubble.

"It is still unclear if it was caused by a gas explosion or a bomb. Witnesses told police they saw two suspicious people running away from the scene just before the explosion," said Saim Eskioğlu, Istanbul's deputy governor.

But Istanbul chief prosecutor Farzan Çiftçi said the blast was probably not deliberate.

"It is highly unlikely that it was a bomb. It was due to a build-up of

gas," he told reporters.

Witnesses said two children were among the dead. A number of foreigners were among the injured, who were ferried to several local hospitals, local government officials said. Three French, a Norwegian, an Iraqi and an Iranian were being treated in local hospitals.

Broken chairs and lumps of stone were strewn on the ground. People from nearby stalls in the bazaar rushed to the scene to help pull the dead and injured from under the rubble.

"There was a loud bang. There were many wounded and cries for

help coming from under the rubble. There were a lot of women and children injured," said Metin Cakir, a waiter at a restaurant close to the bazaar.

Far-leftists, Islamists and Kurdish separatists of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have all staged bomb attacks in Turkish cities in the past.

Nine people were injured, including three foreign tourists, in a bomb blast in April near a tourist site close to the scene of yesterday's explosion. Four alleged PKK rebels were charged with that attack.

Pakistan anxious to resume talks with India

DHAKA (Reuters) - Pakistan envoy Akram Zaki met Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday and stressed that Pakistan wanted to resume top-level talks with India as soon as possible.

Zaki, who arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday from Kathmandu, also said Pakistan did not want to "demonstrate any further nuclear device," Hasina's press secretary Jawadul Karim said.

Pakistan says it held six nuclear tests in May, days after its arch rival India conducted five tests.

Hasina said Bangladesh wanted peace in the region and resolution of disputes through dialogue.

Another official said she and Zaki mainly discussed matters relating to the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"Much of the talks centered on SAARC but they also discussed the nuclear issues," the official said.

"Pakistan has its own view of military balance in the region, like India has its own. They both want to avoid a nuclear confrontation...and both have appreciated Bangladesh's role in trying to defuse tension over a likely nuclear arms race in South Asia," SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAARC leaders are scheduled to meet in Colombo later this month for their first summit since the nuclear tests. Zaki said on Wednesday the July 29-31 meeting would be an opportunity for member countries to discuss regional tension.

The SAARC charter does not allow discussions on bilateral issues at the forum, but traditionally thorny matters are touched on by leaders during informal "retreats".

The prime ministers of India and Pakistan have agreed to hold talks on the sidelines of the SAARC conference.

WORLD

in brief

Ten killed, 90 injured by Azores quake

LISBON (Reuters) - Ten people were killed and some 90 injured when an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck the mid-Atlantic Portuguese Azores islands yesterday, civil protection officials said. Rescue workers dug for bodies in the rubble of homes destroyed by the quake on Faial island. They pulled three corpses from one house in Ribeirinha district. Some 1,000 people in Faial - almost one-tenth of the local population - are homeless, officials said.

Report: Yeltsin too weak to run again

MOSCOW (AP) - A senior aide to Boris Yeltsin said the president has trouble maintaining a full-time work schedule due to poor health, and that he should not even think about running for a third term in the year 2000.

"You can't say that Yeltsin is in ideal physical shape, that he's full of energy and activity to work round the clock," Igor Shabdurashov, Yeltsin's recently appointed deputy chief of staff, said in an interview with the liberal daily *Russky Telegraph*. "It seems to me that he has become so tired both physically and psychologically that it outweighs every politician's natural desire for power," Shabdurashov said of the president. His comments drew a swift response from Yeltsin's spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky, who said the aide "expressed his own viewpoint, which does not reflect the opinion of the leadership of the presidential administration."

Indonesian volcano shows signs being active

JAKARTA (AP) - Villagers living on the slopes of one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes were on alert yesterday after a super-hot steam cloud gushed from its crater.

Volcanologists monitoring increased activity within Mount Merapi, in central Java, said the cloud roared down the western face of its cone for 750 meters Wednesday.

It caused no damage. In 1994, a much larger steam cloud flattened a village farther down the slope, killing 60 inhabitants and severely burning others. The 2,968-meter mountain is the most active of 500 Indonesian volcanoes.

Arnett keeps his job at CNN

ATLANTA (AP) - Veteran war correspondent Peter Arnett emerged with his job intact after day-long negotiations with network bosses who were under pressure to discipline him more severely over a disowned story. "Peter Arnett's reprimand stands. No further personnel actions are planned," CNN News Group chairman Tom Johnson said Wednesday, without elaboration. CNN last week retracted the story that the nerve gas sarin was used in Operation Tailwind, a US raid into Laos in 1970 to find and kill American defectors. Arnett spent nearly nine hours fighting for his job with CNN senior executives. He carried with him an eight-page brief describing his role in reporting the story as peripheral. Although Arnett was the on-air correspondent, and his byline appeared with producer April Oliver's on a version of the story that appeared in *Time* magazine, Arnett maintained he had no decision-making role in it. Oliver and another producer were fired.

Public nudity in Berkeley now only merits ticket

BERKELEY, California (AP) - Strolling nude in Berkeley now might be no more serious than jaywalking. The City Council voted early Wednesday to downgrade the city's anti-nudity law by giving police the option of issuing a ticket, worth a \$100 fine on first offense. Under the original law, officers had no choice but to arrest offenders, who then would have to face a jury trial. Violators faced a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

However, no Berkeley jury had ever convicted anyone accused of violating the law.

Russia seeks loan from international lenders

By GREG MYRE

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia's lead negotiator held a key round of talks yesterday with international lenders in an effort to secure a huge loan that could help stabilize the country's battered markets.

Russia says it needs \$10 billion to \$15b. in new loans to restore confidence in financial markets that have been in a tailspin for months.

Millions of workers have to wait months for their salaries. Labor unrest is on the rise. The Russian stock market has fallen by more than half so far this year, and foreign investors are fleeing in droves.

In another development, President Boris Yeltsin said his government remained committed to defending the currency, which has come under pressure during

the current crisis. A falling ruble would lead to increased prices, something the government wants desperately to avoid.

"We will firmly keep the ruble from devaluation," Yeltsin told reporters in the Kremlin.

Anatoly Chubais, Russia's representative in the loan talks, met yesterday with officials from both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and said the negotiations were in a "decisive" stage.

The parties have agreed on the broad outline of a bailout package, Chubais said following talks Tuesday. But the IMF and the World Bank may be reluctant to finalize any loan deal until Russia's parliament approves an economic stabilization package proposed by Yeltsin's administration.

Mubarak flies to meet Gadhafi in Libya

CAIRO (AP) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to Libya yesterday to meet Col. Muammar Gadhafi on a trip for which he had permission to override a UN air embargo.

Mubarak was accompanied by several ministers, aides and a medical team, which Egypt billed as intended to check on the health of Gadhafi following an operation Monday on his hip which he broke while exercising.

It was the first time the UN sanctions committee had given approval for such a flight - waivers are generally made for humanitarian purposes only, UN officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The air embargo was imposed in 1992 after Gadhafi refused to hand over two Libyans suspected in the 1988 bombing of an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland that

killed 270 people.

"President Hosni Mubarak arrived aboard an Egyptian plane at Al-Abrak civilian airport," a commentator on Libyan television said in a live broadcast from Al-Abrak where Libyan officials gave Mubarak a red carpet welcome.

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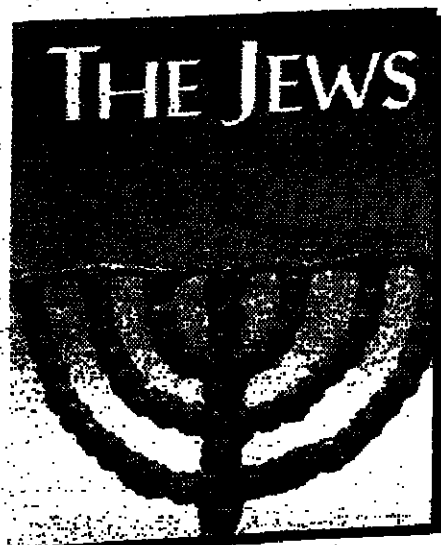
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The new chief of staff

Standard accolades aside, the issue that stood out at yesterday's ceremonies installing the new IDF chief of general staff was the military's relationship to politics and society. Outgoing CGS Amnon Lipkin-Shahak spoke of the unhealed "tear" in society following the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and rejected charges that the military was enslaved to any political party or outlook. And Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of the need to do better at "separating the diplomatic and political levels from the military."

The fact that conventional military subjects took a back seat to such political matters is an indication of the challenges facing Israel's 16th Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

In few countries is the military as intertwined into the social fabric of the country as in Israel. Besides being society's great integrator, it is also the closest thing to a real meritocracy. As Netanyahu pointed out, Mofaz's own experience shows that an immigrant boy from Iran, without any connections to the nation's elites, can rise to the pinnacle of the military pyramid.

Unlike in other militaries, where academies produce officers who never served as enlisted soldiers, all Israeli soldiers start at the bottom. In addition, the IDF meritocracy was forged by the most powerful of crucibles — necessity and battlefield experience.

Initially, Israel's manpower shortage and immediate threats limited greatly the "luxury" of politics in the military. The situation today has changed. Israel has not fought directly against a foreign army since the Yom Kippur War, a quarter of a century ago. The ongoing conflict in Lebanon, and the past and potential conflict with the Palestinians, are of a very different variety, and do not pose a direct existential threat. At the same time, the age of missiles has widened the circle of existential threats, without lessening the need to defend against conventional armies and air forces.

The result is a dangerous combination: a creeping politicization of the army, along with dangerous new challenges with which the IDF has little practical experience.

Netanyahu's statement that both the military and political echelons need to work to maintain-

ing their proper relationship was a welcome one. An "Order of the High Command" issued a week ago by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai redefining the tasks of the IDF Planning Division should help put this principle into practice. Under the new order, Planning Branch analyses relating to peace negotiations will go only to the general staff and the defense minister, rather than directly to negotiating teams. Officers also will not lead negotiating teams, and will be restricted to the military aspects of negotiations.

The transformation of generals into negotiators that occurred under the Rabin government was not a healthy one for the military. It was also a loss for the political echelon: It is impossible to demand of military leaders to both negotiate an agreement and then impartially advise the political level of the military implications of their handiwork.

As great a danger, however, would be a CGS who, to stay away from politics, does not tell the political leadership what they do not want to hear. Mofaz's close relationship with Mordechai might help ensure a candid relationship between them, but Netanyahu and Mofaz must overcome the fact that Mofaz was not the prime minister's choice for the job.

He must also overcome the fact that he was chosen over generals who had more experience. Mofaz has a distinguished 32-year career behind him, but only four-and-a-half years as a major-general, during which he held four different posts.

Personally avoiding the minefield of politics will perhaps be among his easier tasks. More difficult will be reversing the trend of senior officers expressing themselves publicly on controversial topics. In addition, he will have to accelerate the process of restructuring the military to fight new threats with tight budgets, more expensive weapons and fewer people.

The founding concept of the IDF as a people's army based on universal service and reserve duty is increasingly untenable, yet it is impossible to ignore the societal implications of shifting to a professional army.

Given all of these challenges, we can only wish the new chief of staff well, as he shoulders a tremendous burden.

A disastrous process

ABBA EBAN

The Israeli nation is beginning to feel that its prime minister does not take the public interest seriously. In a single week, Benjamin Netanyahu produced a ludicrous proposal for a plebiscite and an equally far-fetched suggestion for an international conference.

There is no chance that the plebiscite will ever take place or that the international conference will ever convene. But the public

all effective rule in the hands of the prime minister and his obsequious appointees. It, astonishingly, makes no provision for succession. The architects of our new electoral system evidently believe in Benjamin Netanyahu's personal immortality.

Other attributes of the current system include the deliberate dwarfing of historic parties and the eclipse of ministerial responsibility. So long as this electoral system prevails, Israel will have no right to

So long as this electoral system prevails, Israel will have no right to call itself a democracy

is left with a nervous feeling that its basic views and interests are not represented in the higher reaches of Israeli politics.

A government should never put itself in a position from which it cannot retreat without losing face, and cannot advance without excessive risk.

Our national leadership has advanced so far into eccentricity that it is losing any kind of reputation for rational thought. It survives in a bizarre world of amulets and fundamentalist doctrines. None of these elements has any claim to speak for the peoples of our region.

It is possible that the current Israeli administration is blocked by a checkmate situation. If it carries out its international obligations by implementing the peace process, it may lack the support of Knesset majority, but if it continues to pamper the settlers' lobby, it will lose the confidence of parliament.

This result would support the notion, widely shared in Israel today, that our electoral procedures are as disastrous as some of us have predicted over recent years.

The direct election of prime ministers has violated every principle of decent international order. It ignores all notions of equitable distribution of powers. It concentrates

call itself a democracy.

Nothing like it exists anywhere in the world.

There is a common belief that this system follows the example of the United States, where a president is elected by universal suffrage. This is an illusion. In the US, presidential powers are counterbalanced by the separate election of governors, by judicial review and by an independent parliament with massive powers. None of these "checks and balances" exists in the Israeli system, which expresses constitutional despotism in its most absolute form.

At this short notice, the most effective remedy would be a union of the two major parties with platforms dictated by the democratic values which inspire both of them. The alternative would be the death of the peace process, a deep rift with the United States and a consequent outbreak of violence.

President Weizman may have erred in invading jurisdictions which are formally outside the presidential range, but he is immaculately correct in regarding the maintenance and promotion of peace as Israel's overwhelmingly urgent task.

The last Rabin-Peres administration in Israel was sensationally

Dry Bones



successful in its attempt to integrate itself into the neighboring world. The theme of its policy was that no external friendship, however warm, can compensate Israel for the absence of a harmonious regional order.

Israel had relations at varied levels with 15 Arab states and with most of the Moslem republics of the former Soviet Union. It had established an impressive breach in the wall of Arab hostility by its links with Morocco and Tunisia.

In the Gulf area, Israel was developing cordial contacts with Oman and Qatar and there was an open atmosphere for expansion of these friendships. The relations with Turkey were a substantive addition to these contacts, not a substitute for them. The boycott inspired by Saudi Arabia was receding from view. The Palestinian Authority was in close negotiation with its Israeli neighbors.

It may not have been a new Middle East but it was undoubtedly a different Middle East than anything Israelis had ever known

before. How could Israelis ignore that their state was twice ravaged and its population dispersed because, despite the beauty of their poetry and the depth of their prophetic insights, they had never succeeded in their effort to interact with neighboring empires. They were, however, well on the road toward this unexampled achievement.

Prime Minister Netanyahu brought no benefit to Israel's larger vision by assiduously dismantling these impressive beginnings. Almost nothing remains of Israel's achievements in its relations with Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and the north African and Gulf states. Even more disastrous has been Netanyahu's role in prejudicing Israel's relations with the United States.

In my long labors in the field of American-Israeli relations, I never had the experience of working in such an atmosphere of tension between two countries who had every incentive for cooperation in the service of peace.

We do not dwell alone

MOSHE ZAK

Residents of Tel Aviv stood amazed last week at the display of friendship taking place overhead, when planes from the air forces of the US, Ukraine, France, Turkey, Italy, the Czech Republic, Chile, Switzerland, Spain and Britain helped mark the jubilee of the Israel Air Force.

All year round, we are reminded of Israel's appalling isolation, and here were planes from 10 countries saluting Israel on its jubilee. Votes in the UN are depressing. They create an inaccurate impression that Israel is alone and isolated and has no friends. The fact is that the parliamentary games in the UN don't reflect Israel's real status in the world, not even when, as occurred this week, the vote is 124-4 in favor of the PLO.

The vote of the US, which stands by Israel, counts as much as 100 votes supporting the PLO. By not being frightened of supporting Israel against the majority in the General Assembly, the US strengthens Israel's position in the international arena. Many countries deduce from this consistent support that strengthening bilateral links with Israel is likely to put them into Washington's good graces.

Israel's position isn't measured by who supports it in the UN. It is determined by the various common interests that it shares with different countries.

Not a week goes by without distinguished figures visiting Jerusalem — presidents, prime ministers, foreign ministers and others. No sooner had we said good-bye to the Swiss president than the Spanish prime minister arrived, and even before he had finished his official visit the head of NASA was here. He had hardly finished his announcement of

fit the gloomy predictions of the politicians and commentators who are talking about an American ultimatum, soon to be presented to Israel, to force the second redeployment in Samaria.

It's true that Netanyahu didn't call Clinton during last week's standoff in Gaza. But a call to Clinton because several

The parliamentary games in the UN don't reflect Israel's real status in the world

delegation, voted in the General Assembly this week, but I'm sure that the agreements Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky signed this week with the government of Kazakhstan are more important.

We stood this week on the lawn of the American ambassador's villa in Herzliya, at the Fourth of July celebrations, and heard his speech — in flawless Hebrew — on the complex structure of cooperation between the US and Israel, including numerous joint projects.

This cast a completely different light on the headlines describing Israel's increasing isolation. We heard the ambassador describe President Bill Clinton's personal support for Israel, and we remembered Clinton's last letter promising that he wouldn't press Israel to make concessions in matters concerning its security. That letter, sent to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, caused no stir in the media here because it didn't

Palestinian trucks were being held up would have been totally unnecessary. We needn't have feared that Clinton wouldn't have responded because of the delay in the 13 percent pullback, but let's face it: The US president doesn't have to be bothered every time there is any kind of incident between Israel and the Palestinians.

We should welcome the fact that the US stood by us in this week's UN vote in spite of the differences of opinion regarding the second redeployment. The US not only voted against the proposal, but also persuaded the European Union to remove the PLO's central demands from the proposed resolution. The PLO delegation is still an observer and has not received the status of "almost a state." It did not win the right to be elected to key positions in the institutions of the UN and its agencies. The PLO delegation will not sit with the delegations from the member states in the UN assembly. It will remain with the

observers. The Palestinian delegation has gotten certain elements of flattery, but it did not get what it really wanted.

In Israel's 49 years of UN membership it has never been elected to the Security Council or to chair any UN committees. This is because it doesn't belong to any of the UN blocs. The original proposal on the PLO included granting them the right to elect and be elected to various offices. The US saw to it that the Europeans removed this clause in the proposal, too.

So it would be out of place to moan at the majority voting to the PLO. Those voting for this week's proposal included countries with which we have close diplomatic and military ties.

On the other hand, it would be equally out of place to celebrate the PLO's lack of success, because the struggle is not over. Israel must remain alert in the face of Palestinian maneuvers as May 4, 1999 draws nearer.

One of things they tried was the French and Egyptian initiative to convene an international conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the participation of all the countries in the region except Israel. The initiative put Israel in the same class as the Palestinians, who also wouldn't participate in the conference.

The attempt to upgrade the PLO in the UN didn't succeed; now we face an attempt to downgrade Israel to the same status as the PLO. This is also a plot that must be foiled in good time.

The most important thing, though, is not to panic. Despite what many think, the whole world is not against us. We have important and powerful friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAIWAN'S RIGHTS

Sir, — Your editorial "China becomes a partner" (July 5), applauds without reservation President Clinton's trip to mainland China.

People in Taiwan have strong reservation about the trip; they feel that they are the sacrifices on the altar of US-PRC relations; they are apprehensive that they have become irrelevant in the international arena of big-power politics.

The people of Taiwan certainly don't deserve such treatment for what they have accomplished in promoting full-fledged democracy, and the development of high standard economic welfare on the island unprecedented in Chinese history.

PRC has come out as the sole winner from the summit. To PRC's leaders, the very first and

the most significant victory on their list of trophies is Clinton's affirmation of not supporting Taiwan independence, not supporting "two Chinas" or "one China and one Taiwan," and not supporting Taiwan membership in international organizations where statehood is required. Others on the list are somewhat negligible to them.

People in Taiwan will continue to strive for their right to live according to free and democratic principles. This noble right is not negotiable.

DAVID Y.S. TZOU,
Information Director,
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

Tel Aviv.

THE EVIAN CONFERENCE

Sir, — David Kimche is to be warmly commended for his article "The lesson of Evian" (July 8). The lesson, alas, has not yet been learned, not even by the Jews themselves, the principle victims.

I would hazard a guess that only a minute proportion of our population has any idea what the Evian Conference was all about. At the time, I was closely connected with the London office of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and was in daily touch with the proceedings at Evian. Shortly afterwards, the infamous book, "None is too

many" was published in Canada, as a typical example of the attitude of the Free World.

It is imperative that this issue be included in the school syllabus dealing with the Holocaust. It should always serve as a reminder to everyone dealing with the fate of our country — and the welfare of the Jews everywhere — that we can only rely on ourselves.

God bless the Dominican Republic!

JACK PADWA

Tel Aviv.

PEN PAL

Sir, — I am a Cuban woman, 48 years old, who is interested in having correspondence with people of your wonderful country, to have the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions.

I can write in English and Spanish. I promise to answer all the let-

ters I receive.

BERTA MARIA PUIG CASTANEDA

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DIVISIVE LABELS

Sir, — Increasingly, upon reading results of polls which reveal hard opinion, one must ask — who is a haredi? How does the pollster determine that the people he has targeted are truly haredim? Is the decision based on garb? Political orientation? Beliefs?

If it's based on clothing (call them haberdashery haredim) — how would the late leader of American Agudath Israel, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, be classified? He certainly would have failed the haberdashery test.

If it's political orientation — how does one explain the thousands of voters who pass the haberdashery test but vote for non-haredi parties?

If beliefs are the basic criteria — how do we classify the hundreds of thousands who hold what some would perhaps call the "fundamentalist" view that the Torah was given at Sinai and as interpreted by generations of the rabbis, is binding upon all Jews? Many if not most of these believing Jews would not qualify under the first two criteria.

Now, Jonathan Rosenblum, in his article "Why haredim are right" (June 26), introduces a new unifying principle: the movement from left to right insofar as the peace process is concerned, by "the haredi world." Thus, he "disharmonizes" the Satmar group who would give the country back to the Arabs; the Shas leadership and many others who haven't shifted positions but who would qualify as haredi on the basis of the first three criteria.

The point is that we in Israel are too prone to attaching labels to anything that moves. At a time when we should focus on how we can resolve the issues which divide, these labels enable us to focus on "the other."

N. SHENKER

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 10, 1933, The Palestine Post reported from New York that a symposium of American Zionist leaders expressed an overwhelming sentiment for the return of Dr. Chaim Weizmann to the place of leader-

ship in the Jewish Agency. 25 years ago: On July 10, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported at length on the colorful opening of the ninth Maccabiah Games at the recently renovated Ramat Gan Stadium. A capacity crowd

of 50,000 cheered the 1,600 athletes and officials from 27 countries. Tal Brodie, Israel's basketball star and immigrant from the US, lit the Maccabiah flame high above the stadium. Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

A FLORIDA MAN has filed suit against a nightclub, claiming he suffered whiplash when a topless dancer knocked him out with her oversized breasts.

"She jumped up and slammed her breasts on my head and just about knocked me out," Paul Shimkonis said. "It was like two cement blocks hit me. I saw stars. I've never been right since."

Shimkonis, 38, is seeking more than \$15,000 in damages from the Diamond Dolls club. The dancer, known as Tawny Peaks, was not named in the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, Shimkonis and friends visited the bar for his bachelor party. Because he was the guest of honor, the dancers asked him to sit on a low chair, rest his head on the back of

the chair and close his eyes.

The lawsuit said Peaks danced in front of him, and without warning or consent jumped on the plaintiff, forcing her very large breasts into his face causing his head to jerk backward. Shimkonis suffered head, neck and other injuries that caused bodily injury, disability, pain and suffering, disfigurement, mental anguish and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, the suit said.

"It's so embarrassing," Shimkonis said. "This is no joke. I'm dead serious. This really happened."

Diamond Dolls representatives scoffed at the lawsuit. "Everyone has fun here," owner Jim Dato said.

OUT THERE in Dorset, Vermont, Kate Logan was only trying to express the spirituality of graduation when she disrobed in the middle of her speech at a small private school.

Officials at the Long Trail School were, predictably, not amused.

Stepping to the front of the graduation podium, Logan, 18, talked of her journey on a road less traveled.

She credited the small, family-style school for helping to challenge and inspire her individuality. Then she tossed down her cap and slipped out of the white graduation robe to finish her speech naked before a stunned crowd of 200 faculty, friends, classmates and family members.

"Without expectations," Logan continued, "feeling the limitless directions, to open myself completely, to express myself fully as a confident individual for it is only then, which I am open and free, that truth and wisdom will reveal themselves."

Her decision to disrobe, Logan said, was made several months ago as she began searching for significance in the milestone event.

"When I was up there it felt natural," Logan said. "It didn't feel like I was doing anything crazy." The school released a statement saying the "this incident was over, what many think, the whole world is not against us. We have important and powerful friends."

Yeah, but what a student body.

Arnett's agenda

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Freedom of the press, and the unique protection granted to journalists, are important pillars of all democratic societies. Although the news business has become a form of entertainment and a major money-making enterprise, the press continues to enjoy a special status. This protection is designed to ensure that decision-makers, and the public at large, have the knowledge necessary for informed choices. Journalists are still viewed as the public's watchdog, exposing secret actions and relationships that could and often do violate fundamental norms.

At the same time, each reporter, producer, editor, and member of a news organization undertakes to provide the information without bias or personal agendas. Journalists should not make the news, or filter it according to their own ideologies. When these central rules are violated, this undermines the justification for the special role given to the media. If the public is given false, misleading, or consistently biased information, the system breaks down.

CNN and Time Magazine's admission that they broadcast and published false reports, claiming that the US military used poison gas in Laos during the Vietnam War, represents the most blatant example of a much deeper problem.

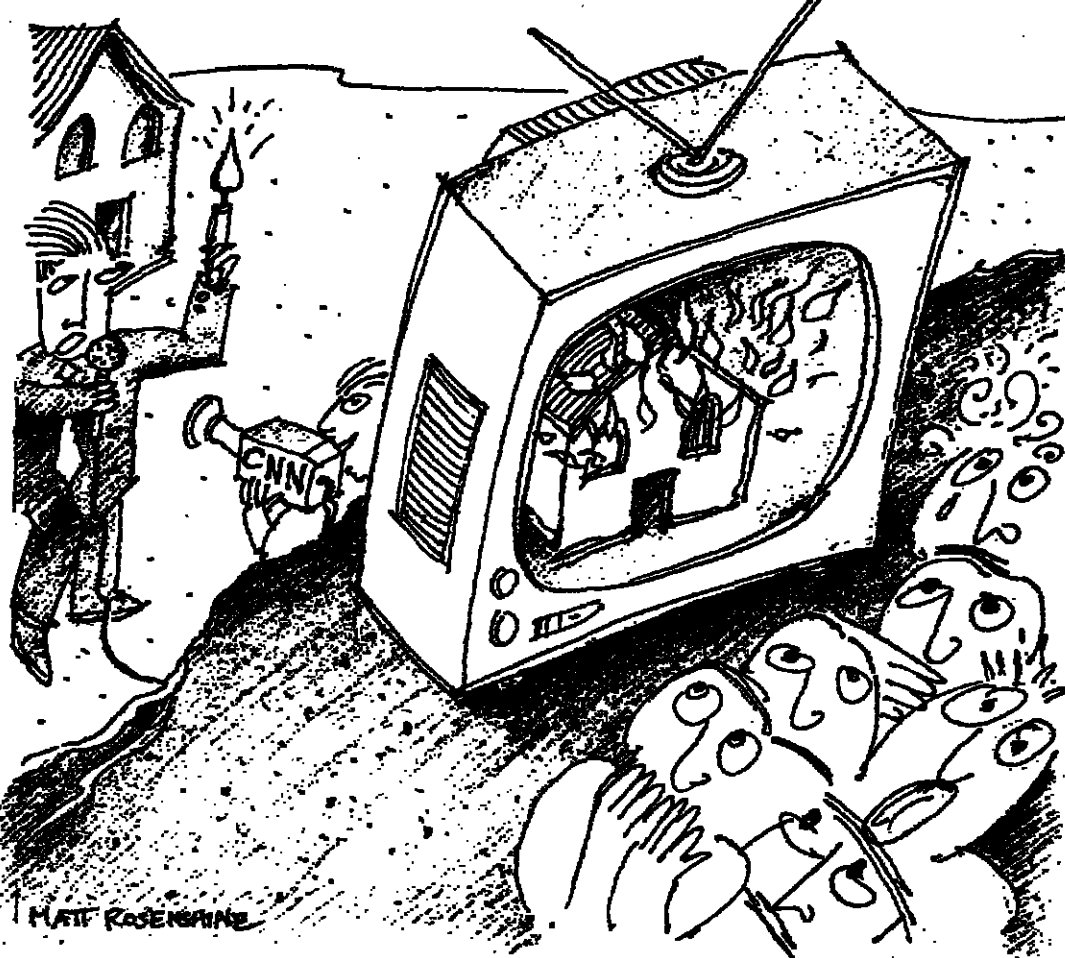
Based on my own experience with Peter Arnett, the CNN reporter who first broadcast this false allegation, the incident is hardly surprising. Before he went to Iraq to become the voice of Saddam Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War, Arnett did some stories out of Israel. When he interviewed me, it was clear that Arnett had an agenda and was

determined to use his position as a platform to broadcast his biases. He asked the questions repeatedly, in an effort to elicit the answers that he wanted to hear. When I failed to provide the expected responses, and gave a different perspective, my analysis never made it to the screen.

To their credit, a number of CNN employees are demanding the resignation of Arnett and the producers who are responsible for the broadcast of the false poison gas story. However, the problem is not limited to a few such journalists. Instead of reporting the facts, without agendas and biases, correspondents tend to line up with the conventional wisdom, which they also create. One unsupported rumor is broadcast or printed, and it is picked up and repeated in every other media outlet until the rumor becomes conventional wisdom.

The process of "pack journalism" has created the consistently negative image of Israel over the past 30 years, in which the realities of the Middle East have been distorted beyond recognition. Shortly after the Six-Day War, the press began to portray the Palestinians not as terrorists, but as victims, and Israelis became the oppressors. This line sold well among European journalists, and in the anti-Vietnam war environment of the US, and has not been challenged since then. (These biases are often reinforced by some Israeli reporters, who confuse journalism with an obligation to oppose any government, particularly if it is not led by the Labor Party, and who also want to join the "pack.")

Reporters with very little knowledge of the Middle East



meet Palestinians or other Arabs, who tell their tales of Israeli "human rights violations" or how the "Jews stole their land." These claims are consistent with the preconceived notions and with what is seen in other news outlets, and all too many journalists make little if any effort to check out the details of the story, or to confirm the facts independently. They also ignore the broader picture, which includes not only decades of hatred and violence directed against Jews, but also the threats and hostility posed by some states that surround and still reject the legitimacy of

Israel. As a result, those people who rely on the major news sources are not able to understand why Israel is so concerned about the impact of a Palestinian state, or about the potential for more terrorism.

Although Peter Arnett is not an isolated phenomenon, there are also professional reporters who take their responsibilities and obligations seriously. Some journalists do come to the Middle East with a commitment to neutral reporting, and a deeper understanding of the complex and detailed history, or they are open enough to acquire that knowledge

on the job). Their reports reflect the complexity, and do not paint simplistic portraits of good and evil.

In order to correct the biases, distortions, and outright inventions of the media, the professional commitment and democratic responsibilities of journalists need far more emphasis. There is no room for personal agendas, ideologies or interests in the press. Reporters, whether in Israel or Washington, should be invisible, serving to provide the information and context to the public, without filtering it through their own biases.

Protect the rule of law

NAOMI CHAZAN

TO BE sure, criticism of the courts is legitimate and, at times, even

With the memory of Rabin's assassination still fresh in our minds, Israel must measure its words in order to protect its most valuable asset: its democratic structure

desirable. One cannot sit quietly while the wheels of justice turn too slowly and the efficiency of the courts is lagging.

Moreover, certain sentences meted out by judges — most notably against sexual offenders — often raise eyebrows. Even specific decisions of the High Court of Justice invite criticism, particularly in matters relating to administrative detention and house demolitions.

There is a vast and qualitative difference, however, between criticism of specific decisions and assaulting the fundamentals of the system. Tichon's effort to open up debate unwittingly lent a hand to those who wish to bring down the world view he himself upholds.

Unfortunately, he made three monumental blunders.

The first relates to timing. In a climate of relentless attacks on the rule of law from so many directions, when the head of the legislature joins the chorus, he grants legitimacy to these voices.

Timing is of the essence in politics, and in this regard, sadly, Tichon stumbled.

The second mistake concerns tone. By concluding his critique with a veiled threat on the court, the speaker may have placed the Knesset on a collision course with the High Court.

Unfortunately, the use of such language implies a confrontation that does not and should not exist.

The third, and most significant error, is substantive. The principle of the separation of powers is embedded in the structure of democratic regimes in order to maintain checks and balances among the branches of government.

The mutual monitoring, usually entrenched in a constitution, is assured through the process of judicial review.

Israel is one of the last democratic countries to institute judicial review, by means of basic laws. Judicial review is not judicial activism but an elementary safeguard to protect individual rights, and especially minorities, from the whims of those in power. To suggest eliminating this procedure is akin to doing away with the most fundamental of protections granted to citizens.

In democratic societies, open debate on issues of policy and governance is always welcome. To question the basic tenets of democratic rule is dangerous in Israel today. An extremely worrisome

pattern is emerging. Initially, decisions are queried and, frequently, politicized.

Then attacks are launched on individuals, in this case judges, Justice Ministry personnel, or judicial reporters (Moshe Negbi of Israel Radio for one).

Subsequently, the budgets of institutions that come under attack are slashed. In this case, for example, MK Yitzhak Cohen voted against a NIS 50 million subvention to improve the efficiency of the courts.

And, finally, doubts are raised about the necessity of these institutions.

This pattern has developed not only in relation to the legal system, but also in other spheres.

It is essential to put a stop to this trend. It negates the rule of law. It shakes the public's confidence in the system. And it gives license to the flagrant violation of law and order.

When the political situation is in crisis and the parliamentary structure is already shaky, any further tampering with the delicate fabric of our government is life-threatening.

Particularly at this moment of uncertainty, Israel's leaders and the Israeli public must be attentive to the tremendous power of political discourse and the severe and sometimes irreparable damage careless use of language can cause.

More than any other nation, Israel should have learned this lesson. With the memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination still fresh in our minds, Israel must measure its words in order to protect its most valuable asset: its democratic structure.

Reform are not martyrs

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Senator Daniel Moynihan created quite a stir recently when he revealed that over half the mail sent to his office about Israel in 1997 dealt with some aspect of the "Who is a Jew?" question.

"Much of this correspondence," the senator stated, "used the sort of intemperate, angry language we had once expected from Israel's most irrational enemies."

As a true friend of Israel and the Jewish people, Moynihan admonished all those within the American Jewish community who seek to hold Israel ransom to the "Who is a Jew?" issue not to "give anyone an excuse to vote against any reasonable request of any Israeli government."

Unfortunately, that admonition is likely to fall on deaf ears. Not since the late Hasmonean period, when rival factions carried the

national help of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency.

TO JUDGE, however, by Uri Regev's op-ed article last Friday in these pages, charging Israel with violating UN Charter on Human Rights, Forman's plea will go unheeded. Regev claims that the Torah itself denies human rights and a state which adopts Torah law thereby violates the UN Charter on Human Rights.

We have returned to our land after 2,000 years of exile to be told by the nations of the world and Uri Regev that the Torah which held us together during that exile is an affront to human decency.

And if tomorrow the EU follows the lead of Nazi Germany and determines that kosher slaughter violates animal rights, as it has threatened to do, will Regev again bow his head in acceptance of the

Those who believe that Torah law is a human rights violation and those who believe it is the revealed word of God are not members of the same faith community

favor of foreign powers to advance their political interests, have Jews been so quick to turn to the gentile world to force their Jewish opponents into line.

The orchestrated Reform campaign described by Senator Moynihan is but one example. The call by Peace Now and other left-wing groups for boycotts of goods produced in Judea and Samaria is another.

And the portrayal of Israel as on the verge of being transformed into an Iran-style theocracy, which ran as a red-line through the world media coverage of the 50th birthday celebrations, is a third.

Foreign journalists, by and large ignorant of Hebrew, Israel and Judaism, simply reported back the line they were fed by the Israeli Left and the Reform movement. The two groups have joined in an unholy alliance that seeks to link in the world's mind Israeli government policies they oppose with a religion for which the nations of the world have never particularly cared.

The damage to Israel from the Reform campaign cannot be overstated. When an assistant secretary of state follows the Reform propaganda line and lumps Israel together with Iran as countries that deny religious freedom, Israel's principal claim to American support — common democratic values — is destroyed.

So egregiously hysterical have the portrayals of Israel by the Reform movement become that some within the movement have called for a halt. David Forman, a professor at Hebrew Union College (Reform) in Jerusalem, writing recently in *Ha'aretz*, urged the non-Orthodox world not to sacrifice Israel on the altar of its parochial interests.

He noted that to hear some of the liberal Jewish leadership in the Diaspora talk, one would think that Reform rabbis were being dragged from their beds in the middle of the night and placed in administrative detention.

Certainly one would never know that non-Orthodox schools and synagogues are being built with the generous financial and organi-

always-superior modern understanding?

A comparison of some real denials of Jewish religious conscience by other Jews reveals how trivial are the slights of which Regev complains.

In the mid-1800s, the Reform-dominated Community Board of Frankfurt banned all teachers of religion from the city, levied heavy fines on those who continued to teach, forbade renovation of the *miqva* and an old synagogue by the city's remaining Orthodox Jews, and called in the local authorities to outlaw a Shabbat Torah study group. That was religious coercion.

When Yemenite immigrants had their Yiddishkeit forcibly shorn and the Jewish Agency kept the synagogues locked in the immigrant absorption camps and forbade religious teachers to enter, that was religious coercion.

And so was it religious coercion of the most brutal kind when Israeli doctors in the 1950s routinely ordered autopsies, in the name of science, against the deepest desires of the deceased and their families.

But, in case Regev has not noticed, he is free to believe, write and teach what he wants. Reform temples conduct their services in Israel free from interference. Regev can even convert anyone he wants who wishes to join the Reform faith community and give religious sanction to any marriage — be it between Jew and non-Jew or two members of the same sex — if the happy couple seeks his services.

The only thing he cannot do is force the state to recognize the child thus converted as Jewish or the marriage as a Jewish marriage. (The civil consequences of that refusal are negligible.)

Reform should frankly acknowledge, as the Karaites did in their time, that those who believe that Torah law is a human rights violation and those who believe it is the revealed word of God are not members of the same faith community (even if they are all halachically Jewish).

Keeping matters under control

MARK A. HELLER

does not happen before May of 1999. In the prevailing atmosphere of mistrust, even government leaders and officials who do not want an explosion will need to

Those who consciously seek Armageddon are an infinitesimal minority, but they have it in their power to drag everyone else down

show great foresight and self-restraint if they are to avoid repetitions of the fighting precipitated by the opening of the Hasmonean tunnel in 1996 and the fighting almost precipitated by the standoff in Gush Katif last week.

Even more damning is the fact that the capacity to set off an explosion has been privatized. It does not require a fertile mind to imagine what form such a spark could take.

There are enough Palestinians

and Israelis with millenarian visions in their heads and fire in their eyes who are perfectly prepared to blow up buses and shopping centers, or club to death innocent farmers walking by the side of the road, or set fire to vegetable stalls, or distribute pictures of pigs bearing the name of the prophet Mohammed — all on the theory that worse is better.

Those who consciously seek Armageddon are an infinitesimal minority, but they have it in their power to drag everyone else down.

Besides, there are enough friction points and sources of misunderstanding to produce deaths at roadblocks even where no malice is intended on either side, and to transform even traffic accidents into high intensity conflict.

Nor does it require an overheated imagination to describe the likely consequences of protracted Israeli-Palestinian violence, with continuing casualties on both sides and perhaps even the reoccupation of territory from which Israel had already withdrawn.

How long could Jordan, half of whose population is Palestinian, remain indifferent?

How long could Egypt, with its pretensions to leadership of the Arab world, refrain from doing something?

How long could Syria, with its political strategy stymied, resist the temptation of exploiting Israel's preoccupation on another front?

How long could Iraq, with its intense desire to rehabilitate its Arab credentials, avoid some grand gesture of solidarity?

For Israel's leadership, ensuring that it does not itself precipitate a spiral of confrontation in May 1999 or before is only part of the problem. The greater challenge is to ensure that the situation is not so combustible that a spark from any other source will start a conflagration.

This is entirely a question of atmospherics. It is certain that some potentially dangerous things will happen. No government can completely prevent that. What it can prevent is a level of tension so high that the potential danger becomes actual.

But to do this, it needs to revive confidence that the peace process is going somewhere, and that will only happen if it communicates, not an obsession with percentages here and clauses in an obscure document there, but a vision of a qualitatively different Israeli-Arab relationship in the future.

Unless it does that, it will avoid the slippery slope of material concessions, but only by bringing closer the day when things fall apart.

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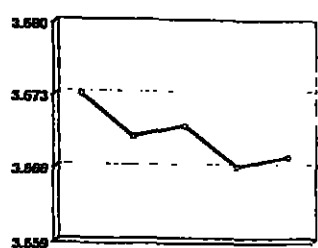
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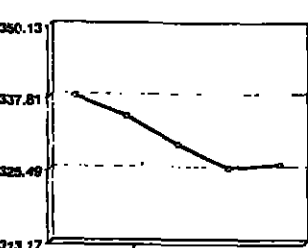
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in brief

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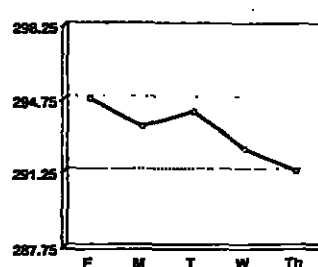


MAOF INDEX



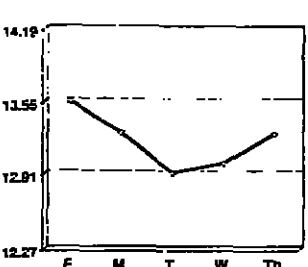
GOLD

\$ per ounce

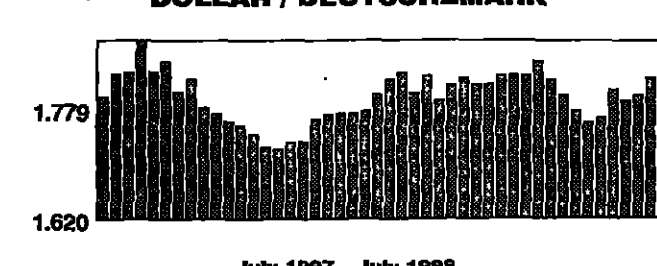


OIL

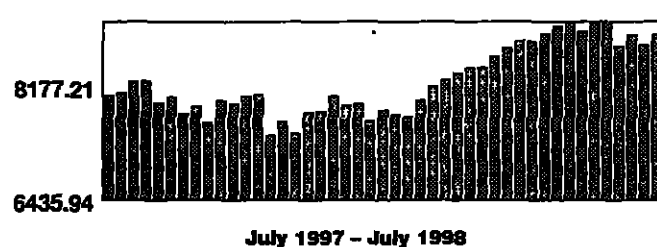
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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BITS & BYTES

By Nina Glibert

Elsint: MRI orders up 20%

Elsint Ltd., a subsidiary of Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., yesterday denied a report that it is discontinuing its MRI product line. The Haifa-based Elsint said its MRI orders in the second quarter of 1998 increased more than 20 percent from the first quarter, mainly due to solid market reception to the Company's new Prima 17G MRI. The statement was issued in response to a report in *Globe*, which said the firm may close its MRI product line since it has caused the company losses during the past two years. The company noted that in late 1996 it developed the revolutionary Prima 17G, 1.0 Tesla System, which uses Twin-Gradient (TM) technology for better imaging features. This system received FDA clearance in June 1997 and began commercial deliveries last month.

EduSoft, Heinle & Heinle to get BIRD funding

BIRD, the US-Israeli bilateral research and development foundation, is to provide \$700,000 in funding for an English development project to be conducted by EduSoft and Boston-based Heinle & Heinle. EduSoft, based in Rosh Ha'ayin, is a world leader in multimedia English-learning products. The new product, My First English, is an ESL/EFL learning multimedia series geared for young children aged six to 12. Heinle and Heinle, a division of International Thomson Publishing, will provide the MFE project with content expertise, while EduSoft will be responsible for the development of the product and all aspects of the multimedia technology. The total development budget for the project is estimated at \$2 million for 1998 and 1999. Both companies are required to pay BIRD royalties at a rate of 5% of sales of the developed products. Heinle and Heinle will have the right to distribute the MFE series to the North American school market and EduSoft will distribute MFE in the rest of the world. The first product of the MFE series is scheduled for release in September.

Java developers forum established

A users group has been established for Java software developers in Israel. The group, called JUG.il, is to advance the use of Java technologies and applications here. The forum, to be open to all developers, will serve as a professional society for sharing Java experience and know-how among software developers here. "Dozens of companies in Israel are developing Java products and applications, growing at a great pace. According to analysts, in the next few years Java will become one of the three main computer languages," according to Edo Lifshitz, co-CEO of Interbit, a Java application development company involved in the establishment of the group. Java, owned by Sun Microsystems, is a language that can be used on numerous platforms, such as the Internet. The companies involved in launching the group include Sun Microsystems, Javasoftware, IBM, Motorola, InterBit, Oracle, and John Bryce.

Panorama signs deal with Cognos

Panorama Software Systems has signed an international marketing and distribution deal with Cognos, the global leader in business intelligence tools. Cognos, based in Ottawa, Canada, will have the exclusive rights to distribute Panorama's Aristotle product, which is in the advanced stages of development. In October 1996, Panorama's OLAP (On-Line Analytical Processing) technology, used for the creation and analysis of management data in multi-dimensional databases, was acquired by Microsoft Corp.

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Lucent to buy Lannet for \$117m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Lucent Technologies, North America's largest producer of phone equipment, yesterday announced that it will acquire Tel Aviv-based Lannet for \$117 million in cash from UK-based Madsen Networks N.V. Last year, Lannet became a Madsen subsidiary, after a merger with the British company failed. Lannet, which produces local area networks and data communications products, was acquired by Madsen Networks in November 1995 for \$300m.

Bill O'Shea, president of Lucent's Data Networking Systems group, said his company is interested in the Israeli firm because of its international customer base and strong sales channels, particularly in Europe, where Lucent is trying to expand its activities. He added that Lannet's products are complementary to Lucent's data networking product line. In addition, Lannet's workers, technology and location could be important assets for Lucent, he said. Following the deal, Lannet will become part of Lucent's Enterprise

Infrastructure Products Group (EIPG). The company's CEO, Shmuel Levy, will join Lucent as president of the EIPG Israel Technology Center. Lucent said that Lannet's center of operations will remain in Israel. "We are pleased to have a center of excellence in Israel, which is a high-tech hot spot, to complement our data networking assets in New Jersey, Silicon Valley and the Boston-Washington corridor," O'Shea said. The center will be Lucent's first development center in Israel. Earlier this year, Lucent made a \$6

million investment, amounting to a 20% stake, in WaveAccess, a high-speed wireless Internet-access technology company based in Ra'anana. "This acquisition helps fill an important space in our growing data networking portfolio," O'Shea said. "The intelligent LAN switch opportunity is growing at better than 20 percent a year and this move will help us offer a comprehensive Lucent LAN switching solution from the desktop to the edge of the wide area network." In a statement, Lucent said that the deal is expected to be completed within three months. Lannet is a global provider of next-generation Ethernet intelligent switches, serving small work groups to large campus networks. The company, which was founded in 1985, employs some 500 workers in engineering, manufacturing, operations, sales, customer support and marketing in locations around the world. Lucent Technologies, headquartered in Murray Hill, New Jersey, designs, builds and delivers a wide range of public and private networks, communications systems and software.

Report: Revenues up for firms traded on TASE despite slowdown

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Revenues of the companies traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rose 4.71 percent during the first quarter despite the economic slowdown, according to a report published yesterday by the First International Bank of Israel. The bank economists, who examined the results of the 326 companies listed on the TASE, said the effects of the slowdown are limited to certain sectors, mainly those focused on the local market. The industries most severely impacted were metal, housing products and services.

Meanwhile, export-oriented companies, such as chemical products, rubber and plastic, electronics, optical equipment, computers and computer services showed improved sales. The rise in earnings was accompanied by a 6.2% increase in profitability in the first quarter, compared with 5% a year earlier. The report says this rise was achieved despite an increase in financing costs, mainly due to the fact that many companies have recorded capital gains. The trade and services sector reported an increase of 4.2% in sales, although operational and net profits slightly decreased.

The best performing companies in this sector were computer firms, which reported a 29% rise in sales. The worst sub-sector was the hotel and tourist services which, despite a rise of 7% in sales, reported lower profits. The industrial sector rose by 5% and unlike trade and services, it also enjoyed an increase in profitability. The best performers among the industrial companies were chemicals and electronics firms which reported an increase in sales of 8% and 7% respectively. The worst performer was the metals sector which saw a 4% decline in sales.

Deutsche Bank may buy US securities firm

Deutsche Bank AG, Europe's second-largest bank, said it is considering buying a US securities firm, a week after a team of its top investment bankers in the US quit to join a rival. Michael Philipp, head of equities worldwide, told employees at Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., the company's US trading and underwriting subsidiary, it has a "gaping hole" in its investment banking business. He was referring to the surprise departure of Frank Quattrone, the banker responsible for technology companies, and much of his Menlo Park, California staff, to Credit Suisse First Boston.

The franchise has to be replaced and the firm could have a plan ready by July 17, Philipp said. "If we don't do anything, we're sitting here dead in the water." The statement revives speculation Deutsche Bank is prepared to make an acquisition as it reorganizes its global investment banking business after disappointing profits in the last few years. Several senior executives left the firm, including investment banking heads Maurice Thomp-

son and Carter McClelland, who wooed Quattrone's group from Morgan Stanley & Co. in 1996 with a lucrative profit-sharing package. Deutsche Bank's new strategy needs to be in place before the end of the year, though an acquisition isn't the only option, Philipp said. Deutsche Bank would look at all different size acquisitions, Philipp said, though it would avoid a big acquisition along the lines of Travelers Group Inc.'s planned \$75 billion merger with Citicorp, the people who heard the talk said. Philipp said the firm is committed to the US investment banking business, contrary to analysts' assertions. The firm would also look at establishing a larger base beyond technology banking, in the event it made an acquisition. (Bloomberg)

Illegal foreign workers can open bank accounts

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday that it would allow foreign workers, including those who are in Israel illegally, to open bank accounts. The approval was included in a letter sent from the currency supervision department of the central bank to Kav L'Oved, an organization that defends foreign workers' civil and labor rights. Under the decision, foreign workers with a valid visa are allowed to open a foreign resident bank account. Other workers, who have no visa, can open an Israeli resident bank account. Foreign and Israeli resident accounts allow their holders to make the same transactions. Illegal foreign workers were given the same status by the Bank of Israel to prevent banks from transferring information to the Interior Ministry. Yaacov Paz from Kav L'Oved said the new law marks an important breakthrough. "During the last 50 years these workers could not open bank accounts. This has led to an impossible situation," he said. According to Paz, most illegal workers carried their money in

cash, thus exposing them to all sorts of criminal violence and exploitation. Workers who wanted to send money abroad had to use the services of special couriers, whose reliability was questionable. Paz added that workers who received checks from their employers were then forced to use the services of money changers, who charged excessive commissions up to 10 percent of their value. In addition, the fact that these people had no bank accounts prevented them from paying their phone bills to Bezeq, which in turn refused to sell them phone lines. Kav L'Oved estimates that some 20,000 illegal foreign workers are staying currently in Israel. Other sources estimate the number at 50,000. Until now, all banks have asked foreigners to present a valid visa, thus preventing them from opening bank accounts. Despite the fact that the foreign workers will be allowed to open accounts, banking sources predict that the banks will not give these workers any financial means, such as credit cards and checks.

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Religious-religious conflict raises its head



Tension between the national-religious and haredi camps exploded this week in their newspapers. How deep is the enmity between the two camps? **Herb Keinon** reports



Spilling printer's ink instead of blood: The two camps are ideologically very far apart. (Brian Hendler)

The haredi-secular conflict in the life of this nation is like a long-running play that never, ever leaves town.

It's like *The Fantastiks*, that eternal musical that has been playing off-Broadway forever. Decades pass, fads change, presidents come and go, but *The Fantastiks* is always right there on stage.

By contrast, were the tension between the haredim and the religious-Zionist camp a play, it would not be a record-setting long-running production, but a revival.

This is an old conflict, to be sure, but one that is staged at intervals. It is the *Grease* of the country's myriad political-sociological tensions.

The conflict has returned — with a vengeance.

Gonen Ginat, the brash, Ma'ariv-trained, few-holds-barred editor of the National Religious Party daily, *Hatzofeh*, published a haredi-bashing opinion piece last Friday, in which he claimed that 50 percent of the country's prostitutes are graduates of the haredi Beit Ya'acov seminaries.

Ginat's article was written in response to attacks leveled at the paper by Agudat Yisrael's daily, *Hamodia*. The Aguda paper had chastised *Hatzofeh* not only for accepting an advertisement calling for yeshiva students to be

drafted, but also for running an op-ed piece by Labor Party head Ehud Barak, in which he explained his bill to draft yeshiva students.

Hamodia ran a number of pieces attacking *Hatzofeh* for airing these views, including one article charging that *Hatzofeh* had put itself in the service of the "secular Satan," and had launched an "open and poisonous" campaign against yeshiva students.

"Our enemies with *kippot* are worse than our bare-headed

"Our enemies with *kippot* are worse than our bareheaded oppressors"

a haredi columnist

wrote a columnist, in the overstated flourish that is a trademark of polemics in the haredi press.

"Just let the National Religious Party dare to request our support for the settlements, or ask the haredi community

for help in the struggle to keep all of the Land."

THESE assaults prompted Ginat to launch a scathing counterattack of his own, under the headline "Look who's preaching to us."

Ginat, a former news editor at *Ma'ariv* who took the helm of *Hatzofeh* last year and lived up to some argue "yellowed" — the content and graphic design of the NRP mouthpiece, described the haredi attacks on the paper and the national-religious school system,

and then related the following tale.

"A few years ago, when I was at [Bar-Ilan] university, it was customary for students studying criminology periodically to join police on night patrol, to meet criminals and try to gather information about their youth and the circumstances that brought them to where they were.

"Each time the students would return in shock, having discovered that about half the women who do the type of work that's done at night on the street were graduates of Beit Ya'acov schools."

This unsubstantiated claim unleashed a torrent of criticism against Ginat and his once-staid paper.

Critics came from all corners — from Agudat Yisrael, from Shas, from the political leaders of the NRP, which the paper represents, and from angry *Hatzofeh* readers, who wrote highly critical letters to the editor.

Ginat, who did not return calls, was quoted in one of the Hebrew dailies as saying "I apologize for descending to the level [of invective] that has been used against *Hatzofeh* for months, and for hurting people who were not responsible for the attacks on *Hatzofeh*."

THE *Hatzofeh*-*Hamodia* exchange will, like so many other angry exchanges of words this summer, be forgotten in a week. Furthermore, no one has taken Ginat's prostitute charges seriously.

But the explosion raises another question: Is this exchange a reflection of a real, deep-seated enmity between the national religious and the haredim?

"There is a great deal of tension between the haredim and religious

Zionists," claims Meir Roth, head of Ne'eman Torah Va'avoda, a group of liberal-minded Orthodox Jews formed in 1980 to combat what it described as "growing religious extremism and ultra-Orthodoxy within religious Zionism."

Roth says that this tension, however, is deliberately played down by the national-religious camp for political reasons.

"Today, when the political struggle is the decisive struggle in the eyes of many in the national-religious camp, and when one of the natural allies is the haredim, there is an interest in blurring the distinctions between the two camps," Roth argues.

The differences between the two camps, at least on an ideological level, are as great as they are historic.

"There have always been ideological disagreements between the two groups," says Eliezer Don-Yehiya, a Bar-Ilan University political science professor who specializes in religious politics.

"The national religious go into the IDF and see it as a holy value, and the haredim don't, and view it as a danger to their society."

"The national religious are in favor of drafting girls — if not into the IDF, then into national service, while the haredim see this as strictly forbidden. The national religious ascribe a religious value to the state, even messianic, and the haredim don't."

These differences, according to Roth, are only the tip of the iceberg.

He maintains that the central issue is how much worth to attribute to non-Torah values and mores, such as democracy or uni-

versal morality.

"For the haredim this is nonsense, not even worth relating to," Roth charges. "In the national-religious camp there is an appreciation — although declining — of the value system of the outside world. The national-religious movement has its source in nationalism, which is a purely secular concept. Clearly religion is a factor in this national identification, but in the final analysis it is a secular concept. The religious who followed the Zionist program went with a secular program."

These are fundamental differences, Roth asserts, but differences that the national-religious camp is not interested in emphasizing because it needs the support of the haredim for its political agenda.

Furthermore, Roth asserts that the campaign being waged by the Left on the "religious" has cemented the two religious camps together, further muting any serious voices in the religious Zionist camp critical of the haredim.

Which is not to say there are no exceptions.

Last August, Bar-Ilan University rector Yehuda Friedlander gave an interview in *Yedioth Aharonot* bemoaning what he called the haredization of the religious Zionist camp. But such examples are relatively few and far between.

WHILE the national religious want to blur the distinction in philosophy and ideology with the haredim, there is a tendency among the haredim to want to emphasize the dissimilarities.

There is a difference, however, in the attacks at the NRP coming from Shas, and attacks launched at religious Zionism from United



Torah Judaism circles.

The Shas attacks are the result of a harsh political rivalry between it and the NRP for voters and funds and pupils.

It is in this light that Shas mentor Ovadia Yosef's scathing assault in April on the NRP's school system as "worthless" and a "sham" should be understood, as well as his comment that "the letters Ma'fal [the Hebrew acronym for the NRP] stand for the party of fools who will believe anything."

But criticism, often vicious, of the NRP and the religious-Zionist outlook emanating from the Ashkenazi haredi circles has a different motivation.

Some in the national-religious camp charge that the Ashkenazi haredi fear is that their charges will become enmeshed with the NRP philosophy and leave the fold.

But Yitzhak Roth, a longtime NRP activist and aide to Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, rejects this notion.

"These attacks, which you can read almost every day in *Hamodia* and *Yated Ne'eman* [the Degel Hatorah-affiliated newspaper], are not the result of a fear of religious Zionism, but just an expression of the traditional haredi opposition to it," Roth says. "There is a clear separation between the camps, which is generally not crossed."

"I don't see many national-religious kids leaving to become haredim, or haredim leaving to become religious Zionists. Those who become haredim are generally secular, and a haredi who leaves the fold generally becomes secular, not an NRP voter."

Roth maintains that criticism of religious Zionism in the haredi press is part of a campaign to instill self-pride in haredim. "It is part of the idea that you strengthen yourself by attacking the other side. Look at them, how

they behave, and then look at us."

BUT Benny Rabinovitch, a senior political reporter for *Yated Ne'eman*, has a different perspective.

"What bothers us is that we don't want our children to be swept up in the extreme Eretz Yisrael nationalism. It is not that we do not love Eretz Yisrael, more that we oppose all forms of extremism."

Rabinovitch said that although the haredi MKs voted against the Oslo Accords, the haredi leaders do not want to be perceived, either by their own followers or by outsiders, as "having turned into supporters of not returning an inch of Eretz Yisrael."

According to Rabinovitch, in the last elections there was the phenomenon of haredim "in our study halls, and our synagogues, but not with our outlook — those who joined Moleket and Likud. It is because of this that there is a tendency to emphasize the differences with the NRP."

Ironically, Ginat's article comes at a time of growing cooperation between haredim and the national religious, illustrated by the fact that the NRP voted against Barak's bill to draft yeshiva students, even though the party believes that yeshiva students should serve in the army.

"I live in Ofakim, where there are many haredim and national religious, but I don't feel any tension," Rabinovitch says. "There has always been a degree of ideological tension, but it is getting less."

"The days of sitting in the opposition during the Rabin-Peres government, and being trampled on, have united the factions in the religious camp."

But still, there is Ginat's article. "Don't read too much into it," recommends UTI MK Abraham Ravitz. "It is just one journalist trying to stand out. It doesn't mean anything."

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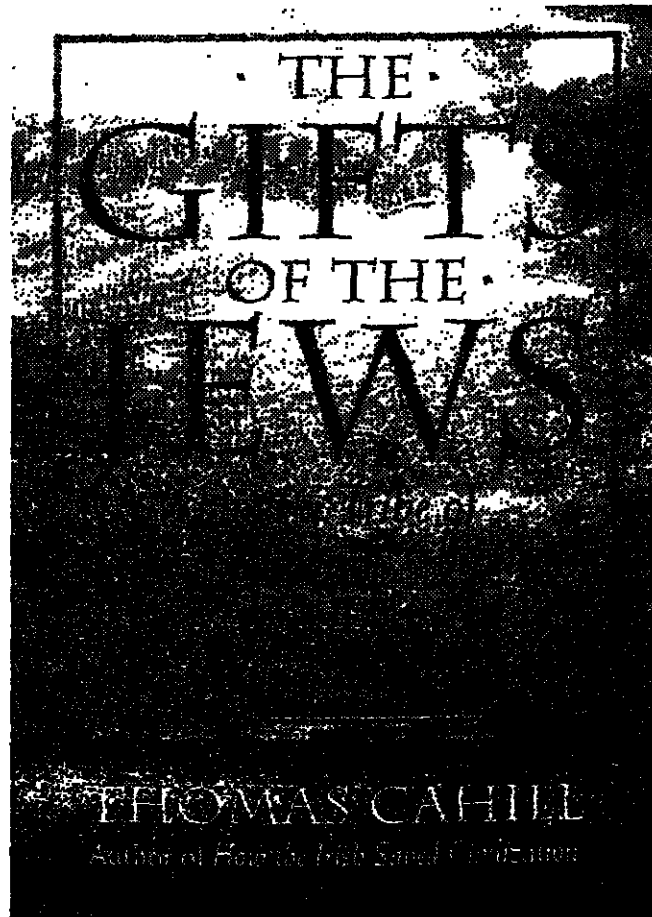
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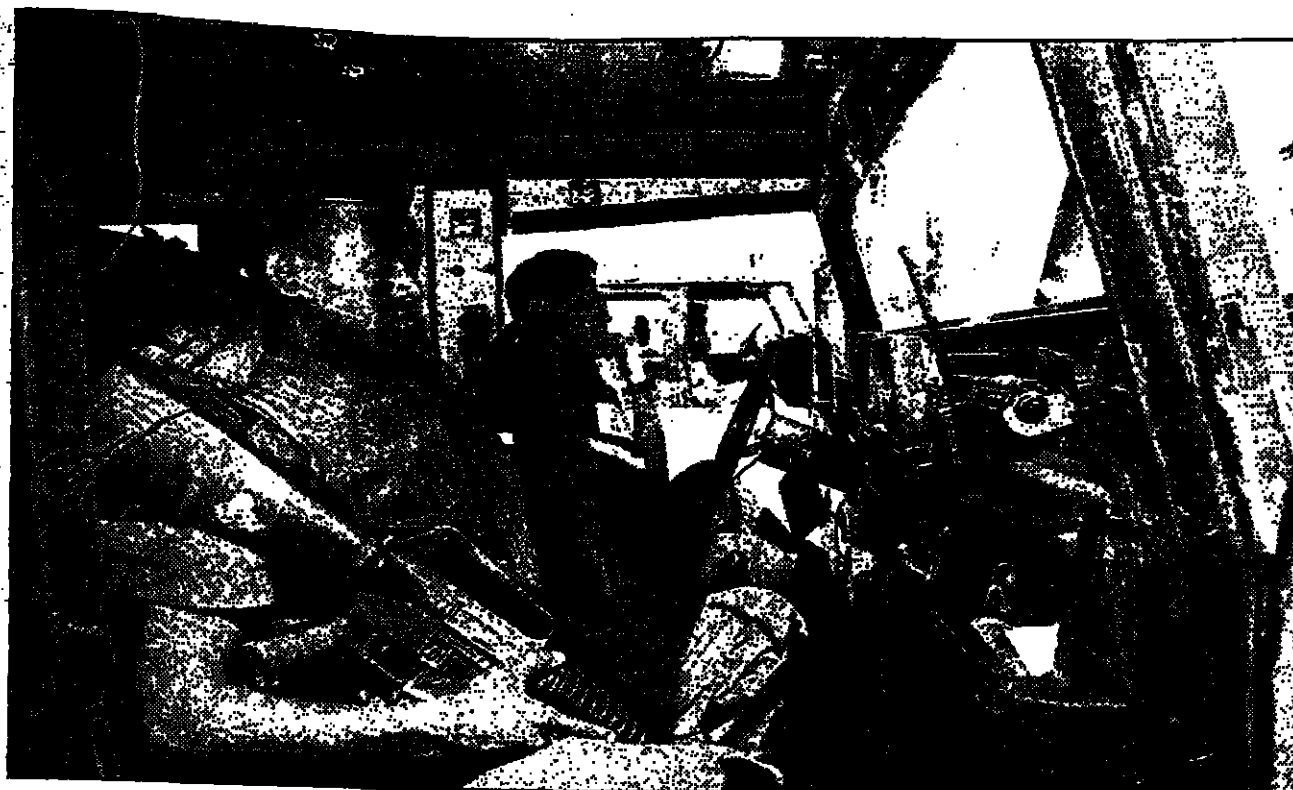
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(Left) Tense silence in the jeep before setting off on patrol; (right) a rare moment of sharing as an IDF soldier and a PA policeman buy ice-cream from a vendor; (below) together, yet separate, during a cigarette break. (Tasfir Abeyov)

Last bastion of a shaky peace

'We're pretty sure they go about with a bullet in the chamber," says an Israeli commander of the joint security patrols, nodding to his Palestinian counterparts. "And that scares us."

In the aftermath of the latest flare-up in the Gaza Strip, the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols are the last bastion of any semblance that the shaky Oslo Accords are still alive.

Traveling in a pair of jeeps, each with an officer and three fighters, the joint patrols are a cornerstone of cooperation.

But even this showcase of partnership, constantly struggling against lurking mutual mistrust, is not guaranteed to survive a serious eruption of violence.

"The ground is tense," says Superintendent Etai Bar-Dov, a Border Police platoon commander. "It's been that way for about a month, and it can take what may seem to you and me just an insignificant event to set it off."

IDF commanders have been issuing ominous warnings for months, describing the territories as a powder keg whose fuse gets shorter as the peace process bogs down.

Senior intelligence officers in recent briefings said they believe that PA leader Yasser Arafat intentionally keeps the territories on an adjustable flame to be brought to a boil as needed.

"He doesn't have to ignite all the territory at once. It can be an isolated fire," said one senior intelligence officer.

The joint patrols spend hours together on the countryside roads and snarled highways of the coastal strip, making sure that the peace is kept and the roads are open. They back-slap, share ice creams, make coffee and tea.

But despite the camaraderie, these Israeli and Palestinian peace patrols have seen their ups and downs since they were formed in 1994.

Last Thursday's lengthy standoff between the IDF and PA officials over right of passage on the same route was the most recent crisis.

The Israelis said that the

The joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols in Gaza present a front of cooperation amid rising tension and bogged-down talks.

But underneath the back-slapping and bravado lurk mistrust and fear, writes Arie O'Sullivan

Palestinians were deliberately trying to provoke the Israelis. The Palestinians said Israel was violating the agreement by refusing them full access to some roads.

Amid the conflict, however, the joint patrols continued their work.

On Tuesday, settlers from Gush Katif were astonished to see a joint patrol escorting a PA convoy along a disputed road.

"Believe me, if we weren't here the situation would deteriorate quickly," Bar-Dov says a day later as he eases his bullet-proof jeep into the Netzarim junction, smack dab in the middle of the Gaza Strip.

NETZARIM junction is a homing-bird roosting mess of cross-roads.

A sandbagged, walled IDF fortress on its north side looks like it was airlifted out of the security zone in Lebanon and not so gently dropped into place.

The northbound road has been ploughed up by the Palestinian equivalent of the Road Works Council—but they never got around to repaving it.

Donkey-drawn carts dodge speeding taxis and periodic convoys heading to the Jewish settlement to the east.

The traffic light hasn't worked for years.

Master of this madness is Abu Amir, a grey-haired Palestinian traffic cop who speaks perfect Hebrew and spends most of his time in the shade of the nearby cinder block hut.

Bar-Dov, 26, catches a cigarette from the head of the Palestinian

patrol Nakib (Capt.) Abu Mahmud.

The same age as outgoing Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak, Abu Mahmud has been in uniform most of his life. A veteran Fatah man, he escaped IDF forces in Beirut in 1982 and fled to Algeria. He followed Arafat into the Gaza Strip four years ago and joined the very first joint patrol.

"I know the Oslo Agreement backwards and forwards," he says in Arabic as Abu Amir translates. "I teach the younger guys the agreement. But if there is a serious problem we send it up to our superiors."

But not all members of the Palestinian joint patrol have mellowed toward the Israelis to the extent that Abu Mahmud has.

One avoids conversation with his Israeli counterparts, another prefers the solitude of a jeep seat. These young men are in general Gaza-born and intifada-bred local boys. Their attitude is the best barometer of tensions in the strip.

The older guys, the officers, mostly come from abroad—Egypt, Algeria and Libya—and are more calm. The younger ones are more influenced by the Gaza street," says Dep.-Insp. Mani Ohayon, 22, commander of the Israeli patrol.

"Lately they have been giving us the cold shoulder. They don't greet us, minor things set them off."

Ohayon says the group avoids politics and most of their talk is about football and women—Jewish women, that is.

"The other day, one of our soldiers yawned when an Arab woman

walked by. One of the Palestinian members of the joint patrol saw it as an insult and threatened to kill him," Ohayon says.

IT IS for this reason that the Israelis wear ceramic-plated vests, capable of stopping a round from an ubiquitous Kalashnikov rifle.

The vests were one of the lessons learned from the bloody riots of September 1996, when three days of gun battles left 80 people dead, including 16 IDF soldiers. Several members of the joint patrols were wounded. At Netzarim, two soldiers were killed.

The violence shattered the confidence between the two sides.

"In some ways we have been able to return to the pre-September 1996 situation, but there has been a rise in tension lately," Bar-Dov says.

A very senior commander in the south has said that September 1996 will never repeat itself because the IDF has learned its lesson and erected protective structures for the soldiers.

Hopefully, he is right. Netzarim junction has already seen its share of carnage.

Three reserve officers were killed here by a booby-trapped bicycle in November 1994. A year later a suicide car bomb seriously wounded two border policemen at the junction.

On this day, Capt. Abu Mahmud complains to his Israeli counterpart that the Jewish convoys coming and going from Netzarim are causing traffic problems. The Israeli commander promises to look into it.

"We have our job and through it we develop friendships," says the mustachioed Abu Mahmud. "I am not afraid of turning my back on the Israelis and my soldiers feel the same as I do. It is a working relationship where respect plays a very important role." But the younger Palestinian police do not confirm this confidence.

THE JOINT patrols are responsible for defusing friction between Israeli and Palestinian civilians and their tasks are clearly defined. The

Israelis deal with the Jewish settlers, and the Palestinians with the Arabs.

But patrol commander Ohayon says the troops do not hesitate to get involved in other security-related problems, such as removing a barricade or preventing protesters from overrunning a junction.

The IDF measures success and failure in the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians by bloodshed. IDF commanders say they have learned that the more restrained their trigger finger, the better the final stats.

Following this policy of restraint, the IDF successfully contained violence that broke out last March after paratroopers shot and killed three Palestinian laborers at the Turkmeiya crossing.

Restraint was also used during the Palestinians' Nakba protests that marked 50 years of exile last May—when many joint patrols became dysfunctional for the day when the Palestinians refused to participate.

Crowds swarmed over junctions and roadblocks throughout the Gaza Strip, including the Netzarim junction. Ohayon was injured in the leg by a stone and a Palestinian policeman suffered a head wound trying to halt the mob. But live fire was not used, says Bar-Dov.

"We have never talked to them about our restrictions, but they are aware of our hesitancy about open-



ing fire and the Palestinian (civilians) take advantage of it," Bar-Dov says.

RUBBING shoulders for so long has led to an exchange of habits.

The Palestinians now carry their weapons tucked in their webbing like their Israeli counterparts and emulate the camaraderie between officer and enlisted man so famous in the Israeli army. The Israelis pick up Palestinian mannerisms, and it is more likely for the Israelis to learn Arabic than for the Palestinians to speak Hebrew.

"When these patrols first started they were quick to cock their weapons at any disagreement and go around with their safeties open, something which for us is taboo. But they see the way we treat our weapons and they are copying us," says Bar-Dov, who was a joint

patrol commander for over a year.

The photographer moves on, looking for other frames, and the chat quickly dries up.

The Israeli jeep leads, its orange flag snapping in the wind.

The patrol exchanges clipped, minimal radio contact on this quiet afternoon as the streets fill with Arab laborers returning from their jobs.

The Israeli commander, Ohayon, grew up in Sderot, just a 15-minute drive away. Serving for almost four years in Gaza's joint patrols, Ohayon spends 16 hours a day on patrols like these, with his Palestinian counterparts. They share food and drink and small talk.

"But can I trust them?" Ohayon says, repeating this reporter's question. "No way."

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Jonathan Pollard – 'more alone than ever'



The Pollards in a happy moment at Butner Prison: She says she was told his case would be put on the table in connection with the second redeployment... but the issue wasn't raised by the inner cabinet this week.

Israel's admission in May that Jonathan Pollard had acted as its agent raised his family's hopes for his freedom. But two months later, despair has returned. Esther Pollard spoke to Steve Rodan in Jerusalem

When Israel finally confirmed in May that Jonathan Pollard was its agent, Pollard and his supporters were heartened by what they described as the first significant step the government had taken in years to win his release.

But nearly two months after the announcement, despair is beginning to return. Pollard and his advocates say the government has not followed up on its acknowledgment. Instead, they claim, the government is consumed by the negotiations with Washington over the implementation of the interim agreement with the Palestinians.

They say the result is that a golden opportunity to start fast-track talks with the US to secure Pollard's release is being frittered away.

"That's where it started, and it has gone downhill ever since," Pollard's wife, Esther, said during a visit here this week. "Now, Jonathan is more alone than ever before."

Esther Pollard said the message she has been hearing from senior government officials is that this is not the right time for the issue of her husband's release to be raised with the Clinton administration.

Relations with the White House and State Department are tense, and US officials appear impatient in dealing with Israelis, the officials say.

As a result, Pollard has been put

on the back burner.

But Esther Pollard said she had been given some hope: She had been told by officials that her husband's case would be raised with the US as the last element in an agreement on IDF redeployment in the West Bank.

As one official was said to have explained it, the US would make some last-minute demands for concessions from the Israelis that would include a full handover of 13.1 percent of the West Bank to

federal prison in Butner, North Carolina.

"There is no linkage. You don't sign an agreement before the agent is home. If the cabinet had voted on it, my bargaining or linkage would have gone out the window."

The inner cabinet decision was postponed, a government source said, to protest the UN vote that raised the PLO's status somewhat at the UN. Other sources maintain that a decision was not made because of the continuing gaps

At first, Pollard believed them. But by the early 1990s, he came to the conclusion that he would never leave his jail cell without waging a fight.

That meant declaring his independence from the Israeli government and developing his own strategy, based on high-profile lobbying in Washington and Jerusalem, as well as establishing a formal bond between himself and Israel.

So, in mid-1995, Pollard demanded Israeli citizenship. Then interior minister Ehud Barak refused the request, so Pollard took his case to the High Court of Justice.

Barak eventually relented when he realized that Pollard's petition to the High Court could force Israel to answer embarrassing questions regarding its accountability to the convicted spy. Pollard received his Israeli passport in January 1996.

Last year, Pollard returned to the High Court. This time, he demanded that the court order the Israeli government to reveal who was in charge of his case and what steps had been taken to secure the release.

Pollard's aim was to force Israel to renounce its earlier claims that he was part of an operation never approved by government leaders.

The Israeli declaration acknowledging him as an agent, engineered by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, came on May 11, over the objections of Defense Minister Yitzhak



Esther Pollard claims a golden opportunity to start fast-track talks with the US to secure her husband's release is being frittered away.

Mortchay and his aides.

The Pollards were pleased and expected subsequent negotiations between Israel and the White House. These would presumably deal with US demands for a full Israeli account of Pollard's activities in the early 1980s and a return of all the documents he had transferred to his Israeli handlers.

The Pollards say that never happened. The government has kept the Pollard issue in the news, with steady visits to his jail cell by ministers touring the US – the last was by Science Minister Michael Eitan last week. But, the Pollards say, no one has actually approached US officials to begin talks on his release.

"They [Israeli officials] don't do anything unless the knife is against their throats," Esther Pollard said. "Our major fight for Jonathan's freedom is with our own [Israeli] government. We don't even get near the Americans because the Israelis don't engage with the US."

NAVEH, whom Esther Pollard met yesterday, stresses that Israel has not shelved the issue, and that the government is operating according to a well-conceived plan. But Naveh is cautious, and prefers keep his answers general.

"The government is fully committed to the release of Jonathan Pollard," he said. "The essence of

the announcement is a major step. We are doing certain things to free him. We can't say everything in public."

Naveh would not confirm the Pollards' assertion that Jonathan's release had been promised as an element in the negotiations with the White House for an IDF redeployment. He also did not deny that the redeployment issue was holding up Israeli efforts to win his release.

"I don't want to go into tactical questions, speaking about them might hurt Pollard," he said. Naveh was also evasive about whether Israel and the US are currently in dialogue regarding the release of Pollard.

"Israel will do everything it can vis-a-vis the American government regarding Pollard's release," he said.

Another government official involved in the Pollard issue was more direct. He said the government announcement that acknowledged Pollard was an authorized spy was a mistake.

"In the end, it didn't make one bit of difference," he said. "They simply don't want to deal with the issue in Washington."

Instead, the official said, the Israeli strategy must be to stress the humanitarian aspect of Pollard's case. He has been in prison for 13 years, more than

most people convicted of espionage, including those who have spied for the Soviet Union.

"This official added that the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the first to send ministers at every opportunity to visit Pollard. Israeli leaders appeal for Pollard's release at every high-level meeting, he said. Esther Pollard has easy access to Netanyahu, and met him on Wednesday.

"I don't understand this anger toward us [by the Pollards]," the official said. "We followed their suggestions and did what they asked for. What do they expect now – that we stage an Entebbe-style raid to free him?"

ESTHER Pollard appears agitated when told this.

"Jonathan has been on the Israeli agenda at every meeting," she said. "But he was always point No. 20 out of 20 points. The message to the Americans is then clear: that Israel raises the issue [only] for domestic consumption."

Some US intelligence experts say the intelligence community in Washington no longer opposes Pollard's release. The lobby that wants to keep Pollard in jail consists mostly of those who dealt with the case in the mid-1980s: then-defense secretary Casper Weinberger, Navy Secretary Bobby Ray Inman and US prosecutors.

"It is a straightforward political matter," said Angelo Codevilla, international relations professor at Boston University, who served on the staff of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence during the Pollard arrest and conviction.

In briefings to the Senate committee on Pollard's activities, Codevilla said, US officials never claimed that he gave Israeli intelligence methods and sources. Instead, he said, Pollard relayed data, analysis and photographs, the sort of material that Israel was receiving from the US anyway.

Codevilla says Pollard angered his superiors and eventually US government leaders by his efforts to undermine what he regarded as a pro-Iraqi policy by Washington in the early 1980s.

"There is no political opposition [to Pollard's release] that I know of in the US," he said. "The only ones whom Pollard's release would anger would be such people as [former secretary of state George] Shultz and Weinberger."

"They are angry because he committed the worst possible sin in Washington: He was right before his time. The US policy of aiding Iraq was a disastrous policy. The authors of that policy were Shultz, Weinberger and Inman."

Codevilla says the Israeli announcement that Pollard was an authorized agent is only the first step in a complicated process. Now, he says, the Israeli officials must stress to their US counterparts that Pollard's release is a priority.

"The Israeli government has to say it at every step of the way," he said. "The message must be: 'You want this from us. We want this from you.'"

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The new face of Meretz in Tel Aviv

In a makeover that's more than cosmetic, the party's new list – half women, half men – includes a Russian, an Arab and a lesbian. There could hardly be more diversity among any four people, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

She is young, slender, doe-eyed, serious and virtually anonymous to anyone outside radical feminist and homosexual Tel Aviv circles. He is middle-aged and burly, with a wide, charismatic smile. Thanks to his phenomenal success on the soccer field, he is one of the most visible, popular and well-liked Arab Israelis around.

Different as they may be, Michael Eden and Rifat Turk both represent the new face of Meretz in Tel Aviv – the progeny of the branch's first general primaries ever.

In all, last month's unprecedented ballot resulted in one of the most culturally and socially diverse lists ever forwarded in local politics.

Current city council member Michael Roeh, a fiery party activist who lives in Jaffa, took the top slot. Roeh, a 42-year-old businessman, immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union as a child. He now lives in the Ajami section of Jaffa.

Running a close second was Eden, a 29-year-old feminist activist who, if elected to the city council, will become the first open homosexual to hold public office in Israel.

Sophia Mahler, a 60-year-old resident of an upscale north Tel Aviv neighborhood, actively involved in the religious-secular debate, came in third.

And the fourth slot was grabbed by Rifat "Jimmy" Turk, 43, a Jaffa resident and Israeli soccer champion.

Symbolizing the passing of the

says he is excited at the transformation of the Meretz list, but a bit worried that candidates like Eden and Turk will be viewed as gimmicks. But third slot winner Mahler has no such misgivings.

"Look at us! We are 50 percent female, 50 percent male. We have an Arab representative, a veteran Russian immigrant, and a woman who is both of Sephardi descent and a member of the homosexual-lesbian community. Half of us are from Tel Aviv and half of us are from Jaffa. We span all ages."

"I think that if someone had tried to create as much diversity among four people, they couldn't have done it better than the way it turned out."

Each member of the group brings to the list his own brand of political activism.

ROEH'S political career has focused on improving life in southern Tel Aviv, bettering services while preserving green areas and open spaces.

"This city has a budget of NIS 3 billion that doesn't get to the residents of Tel Aviv. Our goal is to use more tax shekels to benefit the city's residents," Roeh says.

As a result, Roeh will not support the construction of skyscrapers or other projects cultivated by mayors Shlomo Lahat and Ronni Milo that he says served the interests of construction companies, not city residents.

Eden, born and raised in well-to-do Herzliya, brings a different set of priorities to the list. A lesbian

resist efforts to put us in the closet, for the sake of our youth," she says.

"I think my candidacy represents a change and a realization in the gay and lesbian communities that we do possess political power. In recent months, we have been courted by national politicians, not simply because they want to do the right thing, but because they want our support."

For a decade, Eden has been actively involved in both feminist organizations and gay rights groups. Three years ago, she joined Meretz.

"I want to work toward equality for everyone, not just women or gays," she emphasizes, "but for the poor, the handicapped, and the disadvantaged."

Since joining Meretz, Eden has focused on bettering education opportunities for disadvantaged children, helping to set up an after-school homework center in the city's Yemenite quarter.

From a Sephardi background, she, like Roeh, is particularly interested in closing the socioeconomic gaps between the predominantly Ashkenazi north and the more Sephardi, poorer south Tel Aviv.

Eden is not oblivious to the potential difficulties a lesbian politician may face, particularly from the city's religious factions. But she feels ready for whatever comes her way.

"There is homophobia everywhere," she says. "On my side of it, I am ready to work with any city council member, from whatever party, toward the goals I believe in."

Eden spoke to this reporter at a cafe on trendy Sheinkin Street Tuesday evening. Her fellow party member, Rifat Turk, begged off to watch the World Cup.

TURK is a Jaffa Cinderella story. The son of a fisherman who was discovered at age 16 kicking a soccer ball around the city's back alleys. He quickly became a star mid-field player for Hapoel Tel Aviv and a member of the Israeli national team. In 1980 he was

There is some apprehension that candidates like Eden and Turk will be viewed as gimmicks

named soccer player of the year. Since retiring as a player, Turk has served as a coach and manager for Jewish and Arab clubs across the country. A popular personality in Jaffa, he is especially active in helping local youth keep away from crime and drugs.

According to Turk, 90 percent of his childhood friends are on the street, on drugs or in prison, and many of Jaffa's youth are headed in the same direction.



All different, but all dedicated to a more tolerant society: (From left) Michael Roeh, Sophia Mahler, Michal Eden and Rifat Turk. (Jonathan Bloom)

He hopes to use his political clout to help turn the statistics around. One way he'd like to go about it is by improving Jaffa's education system.

TURK, 43, has three children aged 14, 10, and six. He left school in eighth grade, but his children go to first-class schools – the oldest travels daily to Gymnasium Herzliya, the youngest attends the private Anglican school in Jaffa.

"There is no reason why I shouldn't be able to put my child

the day of the primaries many of the sector's 300 Meretz members didn't know enough Hebrew to read the names on the list.

"I know these people. They went to schools with Jewish teachers, a Jewish principal. In my opinion, there was a deliberate policy of neglecting the education of Arabs. Students sat outside and smoked. No one said anything. They left class to go swimming in the ocean. No one cared."

TURK has flirted with politics in

join Meretz.

TURK believes he will feel comfortable as a politician. For years, his celebrity status has brought neighbors to him seeking help, "and I've pulled whatever strings I've had access too." As a politician, he hopes he will have the tools to offer more extensive and beneficial help.

Ever the athlete, he uses a timely sports metaphor to describe his political goals.

"It's like the World Cup championship. Once there was a huge gap between the quality of the European countries playing and the Asian and African countries. The Third World countries would lose by huge margins of seven or eight to nothing."

"Now, over the years, they have slowly learned what is going on, and the gaps have gotten smaller and smaller. I want to see the gaps between Tel Aviv and Jaffa narrow in the same way."

TURK, like Eden, has experienced the uglier side of Israeli society – as the target of racial epithets on the soccer field.

And while he acknowledges that many of his Jaffa supporters may not be comfortable with Eden's homosexuality, his own philosophy remains one of mutual respect. "Listen, I'd be lying if I told you that the community in Jaffa was particularly fond of homosexuals and lesbians. But my personal philosophy is to live and let live, to honor and respect other people."

THE MOST veteran politician among the four Meretz candidates is Sophia Mahler, a 60-year-old resident of the upscale Afeka neighborhood whose longtime activism in the Citizen's Rights Movement brought her to Meretz.

While she is active in feminist causes and education, in which she worked for 37 years, Mahler's

passion is religious freedom, – sparked when her son became Orthodox 20 years ago.

"My initial drive to be active definitely came out of the religion issue," Mahler says. "Mind you, we are not *against* religious coercion, we are *for* freedom of religion. Everyone has a right to choose to be religious, to be Conservative, Reform and atheist."

Mahler and her husband have jointly campaigned against what they view as the overly aggressive tactics of the Orthodox trying to lure secular youth to a more religious way of life. She defines the Orthodox methods as "spiritual rape" and recently published a book for parents grappling with newly religious offspring.

Mahler has also actively fought government and municipal funding of Orthodox organizations seeking to "gather in" secular children, and lobbies for secular Israelis to be able to enjoy cultural and entertainment activities on the weekend.

"It is unfair that currently a religious person can spend Shabbat the way he or she wants to, but a secular person cannot," she declares.

All in all, the Meretz list personifies the party's liberal, secular platform.

Eden says she hopes the local change will snowball into nationwide political reform and an across-the-board acknowledgement of Israel's heterogeneity.

"When people hear these different voices and see these different cultures at every level of society, including the leadership, they feel more comfortable with the multiculturalism," Eden says.

"The more sectors that are represented in the power centers, the closer we will move toward a more tolerant society."

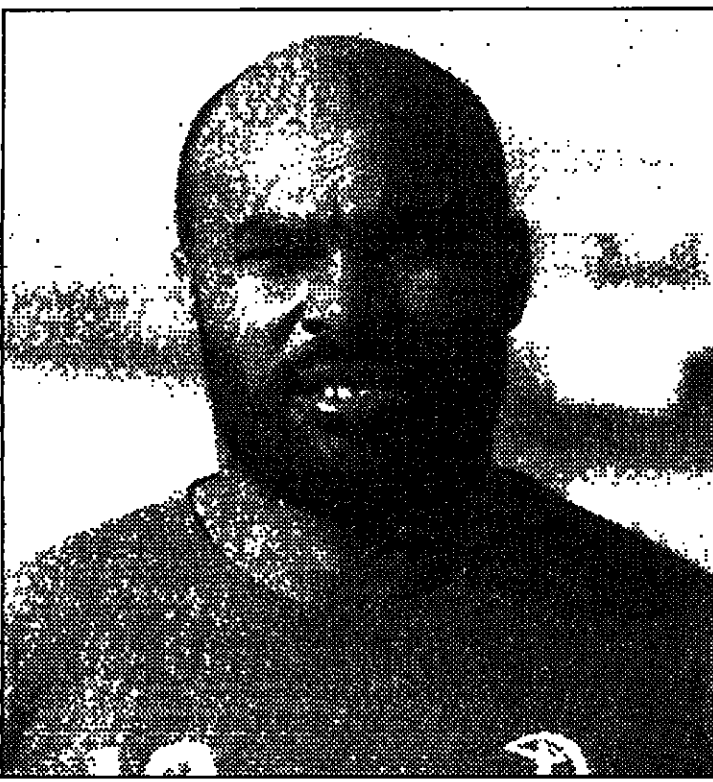


old guard, current Meretz leader Mordechai Virshupski slid to fifth place.

Roeh, who was chosen this week as Meretz's candidate for mayor,

disowned by her family, Eden says she feels the responsibility to fight for a "more enlightened society."

"Gays and lesbians have to be a more visible presence. We have to



in an Arab school near my house and know that he is getting a good education," Turk says.

Illiteracy is high in Jaffa, he continues with passion, telling how on

the past, including an unsuccessful last-minute run for City Council in 1993 on an independent ticket.

This time it was Turk's neighbor, Roeh, who proposed that he

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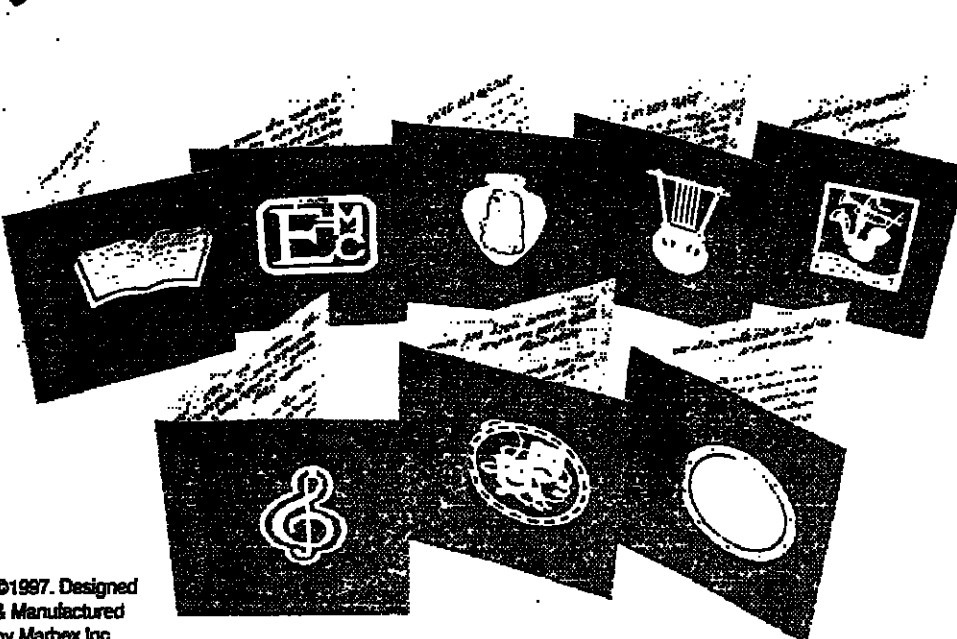
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When Paris burst with pride

France went happily wild, celebrating a soccer victory that puts its team up against Brazil in the World Cup final and lifts a flagging national spirit with fresh pride. No one remembers such an outburst since Liberation in 1945.

"We're going to the finals!" Serge Garnier shouted, sharing his joy with three retirement-age friends after France beat Croatia 2-1. "I've been waiting for this for 40 years. My reaction? Ah-la-la-la."

During the match Wednesday night, a cannon could have been fired down the Champs Elysees without risking French lives. Almost everyone not at the 80,000-seat Stade de France was somewhere in front of a television set.

Within minutes of the ending whistle, people poured onto the Champs Elysees from all directions. By early yesterday, police estimated the crowd at 350,000. Many others cruised Paris hanging out of car windows, sitting on hoods, and leaning on horns.

On Sunday, France will play in the final for the first time ever against defending champion Brazil.

The French people, so astute otherwise, are just beginning to grasp that something fabulous is happening on their doorsteps.

The French can be passionate about human relationships, food and wine and their own individual opinions. Now there's a soccer team available for them to take to their hearts.

"It's a complete euphoria taking over France," yelled Geraldine Lessieux, 20, as she and hundreds of others ran into a small bar-lined street in Paris's Left Bank.

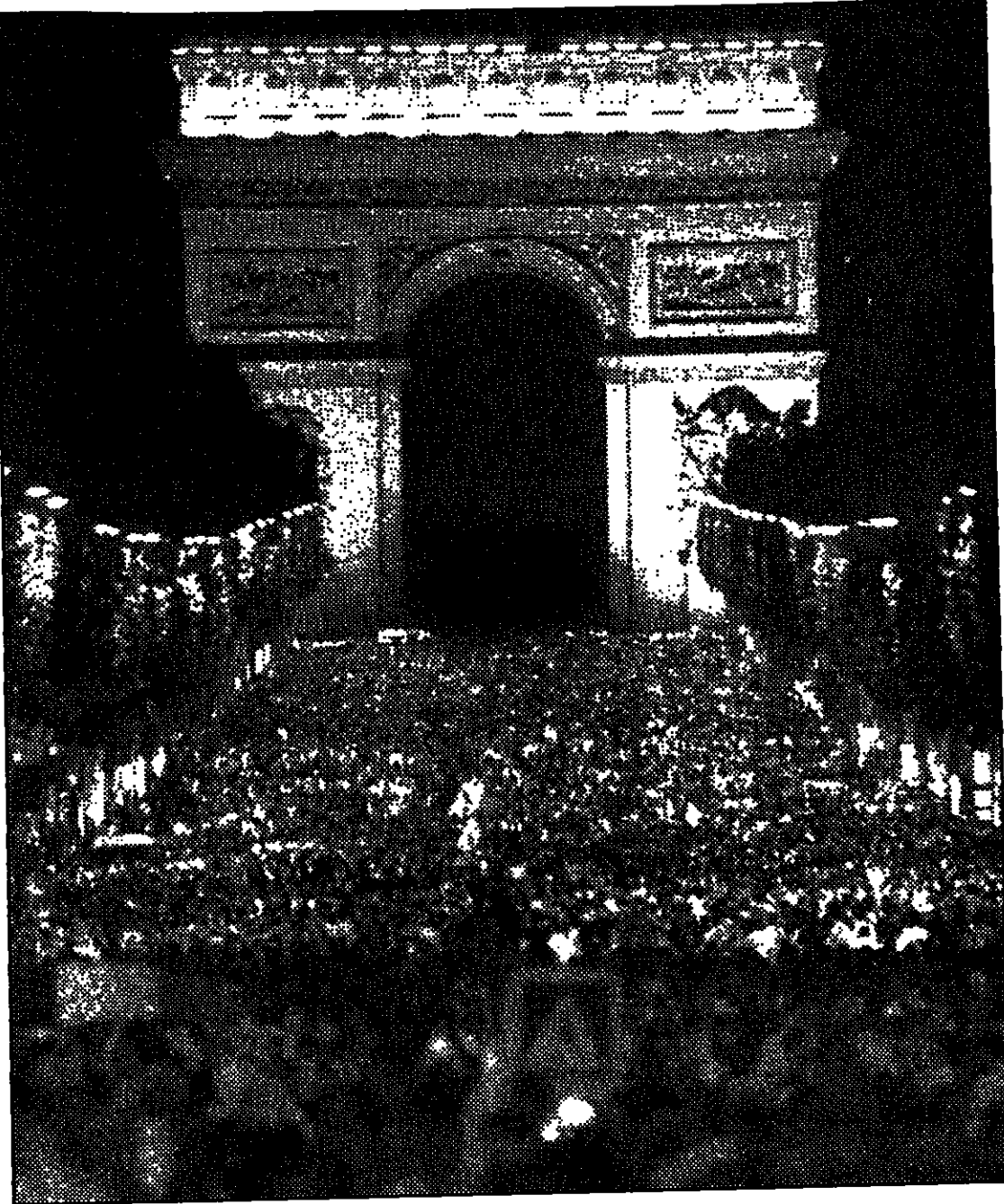
"Each time France wins it's like a shot from a cannon," she said. "And I don't even like soccer that much."

THE partying was national. In Lille in the north, in Lyon and Grenoble in the southeast, and in Bordeaux in the west, people filled downtown streets, shouting, whistling and honking their joy.

In Paris, the party was everywhere: from the gritty northern neighborhoods to the swanky Rue de Rivoli, from the Louvre museum to the ritzy Faubourg St. Honore shopping street.

It centered on the Champs Elysees and the famous avenue was closed off to traffic as flag-draped fans marched triumphantly

Wednesday night's triumph over Croatia propelled France into the World Cup finals, driving the locals wild with joy and boosting national unity at a time of growing racial division. **Mort Rosenblum reports**



With the success of its team, France caught World Cup fever.

toward - what else? - the Arc de Triomphe. Riot police stood by in clusters, but there were no immediate reports of trouble.

Croatian fans were morose; but good-natured. "We love you, Croatia!" they shouted at the Torcida bar in eastern Paris.

After the final whistle at Stade de France, President Jacques Chirac strode onto the field, raised his arms and cheered delightedly.

"This is truly the most beautiful day in French sports - France in the final!" he said.

For France, the country that invented the World Cup, it was an exquisite moment of soccer history.

But some see the team's recent success as something more: the most unifying thing that's happened here in a long time, bringing together old and young, men and women, and different social groups in a burst of patriotic enthusiasm.

The fever seemed to be spreading to women, too. Danielle Trepan, a 46-year-old housewife from northern France, was dressed head-to-foot in tricolor-flag jacket and pants and a jersey hat with pom-poms and bells.

"I have to admit, I didn't really watch soccer much before this," she said. "Actually, hardly at all. But this is different - it's in France, and the World Cup."

Vincent Rey, a wine seller from Clermont-Ferrand in the south, paused on a train ride to the stadium to explain how he got his tickets: a lottery at his bank, six months ago.

"It's not true that we don't love soccer like the others," he said, offering the theory that the French taste in soccer is somewhat similar to its taste in wine: discriminating.

"We appreciate the beauty of a good game," Rey said. "We are less interested in who wins."

Frenchmen organized the first World Cup in 1932, but despite three semifinal appearances, France has never finished higher than third. This year, as hosts of the biggest tournament ever, the French now face everyone's dream opponent Brazil.

The triumph caused many Frenchmen to forget for a while the nation's racial divisions and growing problem of resettle immigrant suburbs. Thousands of youths came in by train from "sensitive neighborhoods" to celebrate in downtown Paris.

Zinedine Zidane, the team's hero, is a Marseille kid from the hood, the son of an Algerian night watchman. In the middle of Paris, North African youths with Zidane dreams played soccer with a crushed beer can as a ball.

The popular chant, "Thuram President," referred to Lilian Thuram, a black Frenchman from the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe who scored both French goals.

"This will do a great deal of good for the suburbs," said Abdullah Merrouche, 69, an Algerian-born doctor with French citizenship. "Kids have a role model, and Le Pen looks like a fool." Jean-Marie Le Pen heads the extreme-right National Front, labeled "racist and xenophobic" by President Jacques Chirac.

FRANCE showed a different image to billions of worldwide TV viewers as white teammate Laurent Blanc tenderly embraced Thuram.

But that was only part of it. This was glory.

The jubilation was universal - from the men in dark suits and silk ties in the VIP boxes at the bright new stadium to impoverished workers who cheered each French advance in front of their TV sets at home.

Not everyone thinks the current euphoria will last long after the World Cup.

"There will be happiness for a few days," said textile worker Nicolas Tchicodeman, 25, riding home on the subway to watch the game on TV. "Then, everything will go right back to normal."

But the French can lord it over the English and Italians and Germans and Dutch at least for the rest of the week, and no matter what happens on Sunday they can savor the memories if they wish.

"We really showed our weight tonight," Garnier said. "I'm only sorry it wasn't the Germans. It would have been like winning another war against them." (AP)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Guests attending the 222nd American Independence Day celebrations at the Herzliya Pithul home of US ambassador Edward Walker were surprised at being summoned to "attention" for the American and Israeli national anthems an hour earlier than listed in the program. The reason was unofficial protocol. President Ezer Weizman was unable to stay.



Walker: Highly amused

(Brian Hendler)

for the planned ceremony, in which he was not scheduled to feature. So Walker tactfully acknowledged his presence by having two ceremonies, replete with flag-bearing Marines.

The president disappeared around 9 p.m., shortly before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was due to arrive. He could have stayed a little longer, because the PM didn't appear till 9:30, walking to the dais hand-in-hand with his wife, Sara, who was wearing a flattering white pants suit.

The Netanyahu's grinned in appreciation as Walker opened his speech in Hebrew - an effort many ambassadors make; but Walker went on to deliver the whole of his lengthy address in Hebrew, noting how much the friendship between the US and Israel had grown since his first tour of duty here 23 years ago.

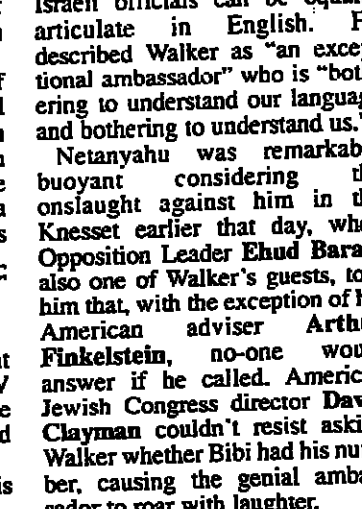
The Clinton administration's warmth toward Israel, Walker said, was not motivated by religion, politics, history or even Congress, but was "something personal."

Netanyahu quipped that he didn't know what language he should talk in - then proceeded to prove that if American officials can be articulate in Hebrew, Israeli officials can be equally articulate in English. He described Walker as "an exceptional ambassador" who is "bothering to understand our language and bothering to understand us."

Netanyahu was remarkably buoyant considering the onslaught against him in the Knesset earlier that day, when Opposition Leader Ehud Barak, also one of Walker's guests, told him that, with the exception of his American adviser Arthur Finkelstein, no-one would answer if he called. American Jewish Congress director David Clayman couldn't resist asking Walker whether Bibi had his number, causing the genial ambassador to roar with laughter.

ALSO highly visible in Walker's garden was Zalman Shoval, who takes up his duties on July 15 as Israeli ambassador to the US.

Shoval has been very busy over the past month making his



Shoval: In critical vein

(David Rubinger)

farewells locally. But on Saturday night, July 4, he was being welcomed back to America by members of the ADL Leadership Mission, who were celebrating both US Independence Day and the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel at a reception hosted by ADL Israel director Rabbi David Rosen at Anna Ticho House in Jerusalem.

Referring to his previous term as ambassador in Washington, Shoval said he always knew he could look to the ADL for help. "ADL never let me down, and I have a suspicion that I'll have to call on you more than once in the coming years," he said.

One human interest story to come out of the ADL mission was the meeting between Milford and Zita Desenberg of Sarasota, Florida, with John A. Zucker, the New York-based assistant to ADL National Chairman Howard

Berkowitz. Many years ago Desenberg knew a Lenny Zucker when both were students at Cornell University, but their paths had not crossed in over 30 years. As it happens, Lenny Zucker called his Dad on July 5, said "I have a surprise for you," and handed the phone to Desenberg, for whom the reunion was a 67th birthday present.

PEOPLE have been speculating for a couple of years now over whether Labor MK Uri Bitan, one of Jerusalem's more eligible bachelors, would remarry. At last they know the answer: Bitan is all set for a summer wedding to Aviva Haydan, whom he has known for around a decade. The two first met at a Labor Party meeting. Haydan subsequently managed Baram's office when he was minister of tourism, then continued as his parliamentary aide. With that background in common, they'll never run out of things to talk about.

LOVERS of smoked salmon had a real treat at the Canada Day reception hosted on the spacious lawn of the Savoy residence of Canadian ambassador David Berger and his wife, Monica. Atlantic smoked salmon served on Montreal bagels was the primary fare, and the consensus among the guests, who frequently dine on smoked salmon on the cocktail party circuit, was that this was really the best. Those present included Canadian Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs Stephane Dion, who was in Israel to learn about the country first-hand. Irish ambassador Brendan Scannell, a great whiskey connoisseur, was caught with a glass of wine in his hand. He wasn't

drinking his preferred brew, he explained, because he'd come with his wife, Margaret, and she'd put a veto on the strong stuff.

ADDRESSING the first-ever meeting at the Knesset of the Jerusalem Economic Forum, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said about the topic under discussion - "The influence of government and Knesset resolutions on the future of Jerusalem over the next 50 years" - that he could hardly talk about what might happen in the capital over the next half-century when there was a question mark over what might occur in the Knesset before the month was out.

Tichon didn't rule out the possibility of the government falling. And, with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman present, he took the opportunity to criticize the latter's proposed tax reforms, saying that several of the measures had already been tried, without success. A critical Tichon charged, moreover, that not enough had been done to encourage foreign investment in Jerusalem's hi-tech industries, and called the promotion of Jerusalem's tourism potential "inadequate."

"Why do we have to pay so much for so little?" he asked, lamenting the dearth of three-star hotels.

THE prime minister may be having communication problems in some quarters, but he is doing well with the Poles. Polish ambassador Wojciech Adamiecki described the PM's recent visit to his country as highly successful, and a significant factor in improving relations. A further move in that direction was the visit to Israel this week by Mieczyslaw Plazynski, marshal of the Polish Sejm. He and his wife felt so much in love with Jerusalem that they are planning a private reunion visit.

When a last-minute change in their itinerary left them with two hours on Wednesday with nothing to do, Sister Raphaela Wlodarczyk of the Elizabethan Sisters, who run the Home of Peace on the Mount of Olives, promptly came to the rescue with hospitality and refreshments, enabling Plazynski and his party to get a different perspective of the city. And they were able to see the Home of Peace (which provides a home and a good education for destitute children of all faiths) from the Promenade Restaurant, where Adamiecki on Tuesday had a reception in Plazynski's honor.

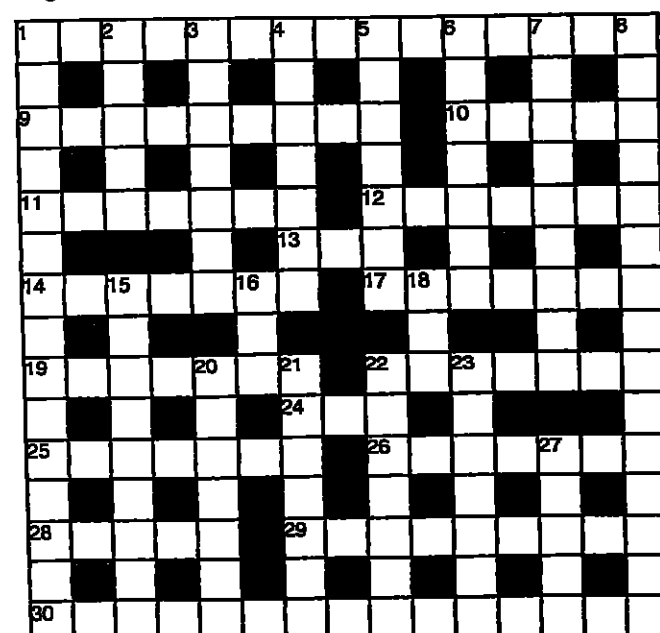
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Have a wonderful time as mountaineer? (3,3,4,5)
- 9 Partisan, but unreliable (9)
- 10 Some awful tract from an extremist (5)
- 11 What it costs to send Gestapo wild (7)
- 12 Broadcast chief is a fool (7)
- 13 Child thus given name (3)
- 14 Catching distance? (7)
- 17 What's viciously said in row gets contempt (7)
- 19 No member of old family gets out of bed with a jump (7)
- 22 Points to Mediterranean island to hide (7)
- 24 Frequently take money from attic (3)
- 25 It's standard to cut vegetable (7)

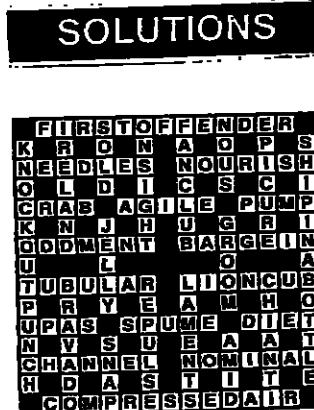
DOWN

- 26 Take salt with a single shellfish (7)
- 28 Presses chains (5)
- 29 Carlton to broadcast singer (9)
- 30 Showworkers' time off—a midwinter afternoon? (5,7,3)
- 1 Not apparent one's next in line (4,11)
- 2 One agrees to come to these school periods (5)
- 3 Pig clean? Nonsense! (7)
- 4 Very saintly, but have position in army (7)



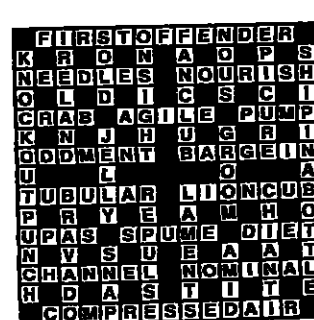
ACROSS

- 5 Judy's wreath? (7)
- 6 Son with lots of pages as escorts (7)
- 7 Keen for advancement, but taken home sick (2,3,4)
- 8 Donne, my ancestor, used oddly to be very formal (5,2,8)
- 15 River rose in spate—filling this? (9)
- 16 Time to speak out for us (3)
- 18 Carp served in cider (3)
- 20 Pardon for little woman keeping home (7)
- 21 Current dilapidated state of coat (7)
- 22 Adds colour, say, to Surrey town (7)
- 23 Companion has a smile of ruefulness (7)
- 27 Made to run smoothly, though a little drunk (5)



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Barrow, 4 Shred, 10 Pigeon, 11 Rector, 22 Arena, 23 Minus, 25 Dace, 27 Order, 29 Ariel, 30 Cake, 31 Thought, 27 Gusto, 23 Little, 30 Lampoon, 31 Crest, 23 later.
DOWN: 3 Argus, 5 Casanova, 6 Ideal, 6 Extravase, 7 Spray, 8 Aspic, 9 Pagan, 14 Leek, 16 Auro, 18 Rooster, 20 Regiment, 31 Stale, 28 Atoll, 24 Round, 26 Goose, 28 Score.

SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Barrow, 4 Shred, 10 Pigeon, 11 Rector, 22 Arena, 23 Minus, 25 Dace, 27 Order, 29 Ariel, 30 Cake, 31 Thought, 27 Gusto, 23 Little, 30 Lampoon, 31 Crest, 23 later.
DOWN: 3 Argus, 5 Casanova, 6 Ideal, 6 Extravase, 7 Spray, 8 Aspic, 9 Pagan, 14 Leek, 16 Auro, 18 Rooster, 20 Regiment, 31 Stale, 28 Atoll, 24 Round, 26 Goose, 28 Score.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- 7 Custodian (5)
- 8 Adds up (6)
- 10 Organ composition (7)
- 11 Greek 'th' (5)
- 12 Pay attention to (4)
- 13 Animal's backbone (5)
- 17 Praise highly (6)
- 18 Cab (4)
- 22 Top room (5)
- 23 Plundered (7)
- 24 Tabs (5)
- 25 Ardent admirer (6)

- 1 Unsubstantial (7)
- 2 Shores (7)
- 3 Lawful (5)
- 4 Seating (7)
- 5 Added building (5)
- 6 Film award (5)
- 9 Single men (9)
- 14 Accurately (7)
- 15 Dawdler (7)
- 16 Book-binding workshop (7)
- 19 Moralistic story (5)
- 20 Wounds (5)
- 21 Avoid (5)

MURDER

Continued from Page 1

The tragedy occurred around 2.30 a.m. after Sfadiya arrived at the apartment block where two of his sisters live next door to each other.

The suspect reportedly went into the flat of the younger sister and stabbed her boyfriend, who was lightly wounded. He then went down to the courtyard between the apartment block entrances and called for his other sister, Sylvia Cohen, to come down from her third-floor flat.

Cohen, who is divorced, lived alone in the flat except when her two daughters, Aliza and Rosa, came home on vacations from boarding school.

She reportedly went down to her brother and was later joined by her elder daughter, Rosa, who had

been awakened by the shouts. Cohen told reporters that her brother, who was in a fit of depression, punched her and Rosa and then went upstairs to their flat where Aliza had remained.

"She managed to get away a bit and shouted from the window 'Mommy, Mommy, he's killing me,'" said Cohen. "And I couldn't go up because he would have killed her and me and the older girl as well."

According to police, it took five minutes for the first patrol car to reach the scene, after they recalled in response to the first stabbing incident. Within that time, the suspect allegedly committed the murder. A commando-style knife was found at the scene.

The murder shocked social workers in the Migdal Ha'emek municipality, which has been dealing with the family for several years.

farewells locally. But on Saturday night, July 4, he was being welcomed back to America by members of the ADL Leadership Mission, who were celebrating both US Independence Day and the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel at a reception hosted by ADL Israel director Rabbi David Rosen at Anna Ticho House in Jerusalem.

Referring to his previous term as ambassador in Washington, Shoval said he always knew he could look to the ADL for help. "ADL never let me down, and I have a suspicion that I'll have to call on you more than once in the coming years," he said.

One human interest story to come out of the ADL mission was the meeting between Milford and Zita Desenberg of Sarasota, Florida, with John A. Zucker, the New York-based assistant to ADL National Chairman Howard

When a last-minute change in their itinerary left them with two hours on Wednesday with nothing to do, Sister Raphaela Wlodarczyk of the Elizabethan Sisters, who run the Home of Peace on the Mount of Olives, promptly came to the rescue with hospitality and refreshments, enabling Plazynski and his party to get a different perspective of the city. And they were able to see the Home of Peace (which provides a home and a good education for destitute children of all faiths) from the Promenade Restaurant, where Adamiecki on Tuesday had a reception in Plazynski's honor.

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HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Beit Hakerem, 4, unfurnished, private, no stairs, \$1,000; Rehavia, 3, fully furnished, best location, \$1,000; Beit Hakerem, 5, fully furnished, garden, excellent condition, \$1,400 (Dafna). Tel. 02-561-1222. portico@netvision.net.il (79891)

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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BAKA, 4, BALCONIES, Rehavia, duplex, 4, terrace, German colony, superb, 6, garden, Talbich, 8, terrace, pool, view, Center, 2, pool, dormitory, CORPUS DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385. (17935)

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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GIVAT-MORDECHAI, 3, BEAUTIFULLY furnished, air-conditioning, high, elevator, 1st floor, Tel. 02-522-5935. (793625)

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Jerusalem Area

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YEMIN-MOSHE - JERUSALEM'S</

DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

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DWELLINGS

Tel Aviv

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SALES

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DWELLINGS

Dan Region

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Sharon Area

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SALES/RENTALS

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DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

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SALES

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DWELLINGS

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RENTALS

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SALES

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DWELLINGS

Eilat and South

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REALTY

Jerusalem Area

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REALTY

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PLOT
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REALTY

Dan Region

PLOTS
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BUSINESS OFFERS

General

BUSINESS PREMISES

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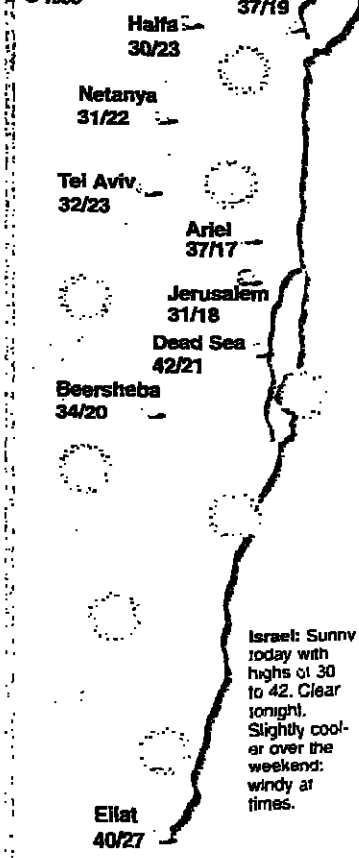
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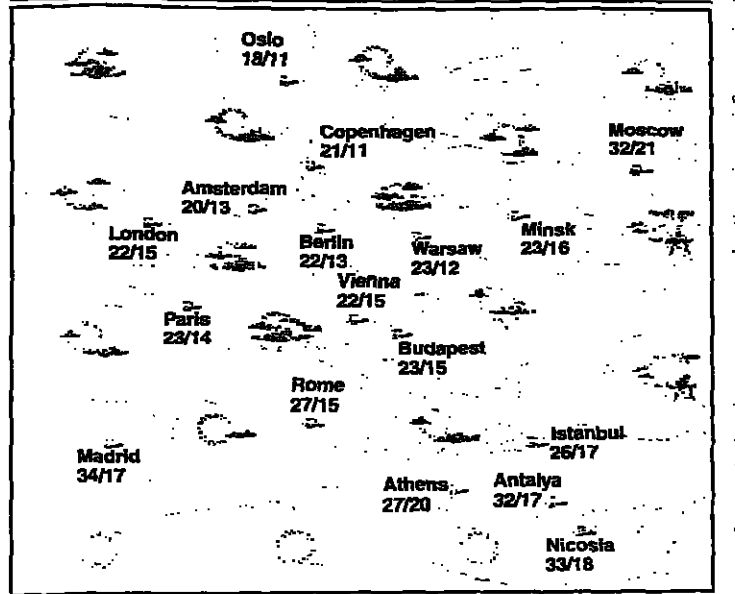
THE WEATHER

ISRAEL

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Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Amsterdam	17/12	16/11	17/12	16/11
London	17/12	16/11	17/12	16/11
Berlin	17/12	16/11	17/12	16/11
Rome	27/15	26/14	27/15	26/14
Madrid	34/17	33/16	34/17	33/16
Athens	27/20	26/19	27/20	26/19
Antalya	32/17	31/16	32/17	31/16
Nicosia	33/18	32/17	33/18	32/17

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Haifa	27/15	26/14	27/15	26/14
Tel Aviv	32/17	31/16	32/17	31/16
Jerusalem	31/18	30/17	31/18	30/17
Beersheva	34/20	33/19	34/20	33/19

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Anchorage	19/9	18/8	19/9	18/8
Seattle	22/12	21/11	22/12	21/11
Portland	23/13	22/12	23/13	22/12
San Francisco	19/12	18/11	19/12	18/11
Los Angeles	29/18	28/17	29/18	28/17
San Diego	29/18	28/17	29/18	28/17
Phoenix	34/22	33/21	34/22	33/21
Las Vegas	34/22	33/21	34/22	33/21
Denver	30/17	29/16	30/17	29/16
Chicago	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
St. Louis	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
Indianapolis	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
Philadelphia	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
New York City	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
Boston	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
Washington	27/17	26/16	27/17	26/16
Atlanta	33/22	32/21	33/22	32/21
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Tour de France starts in Ireland tomorrow

DUBLIN (AP) - While the French have their eye on the World Cup final, Ireland is gearing up for the biggest sporting event in its history - the Tour de France.

The red, white and blue of the French tricolor adorned shops, pubs and homes from Dublin to Cork yesterday as the Irish started a week-long party to celebrate the start of the world's premier cycling event.

Dublin Castle, headquarters for the Tour's weekend start in the capital, renamed itself the Chateau de Dublin in a sign of how this Gaelic land is going Gallic as host of the 85th annual Tour. Tourists and fans rubbernecked at the tall, thin athletes in bodyhugging Lycra.

"It's like when the pope came here, people try to be blasé but the emotion's building and building," said Bill Morrison, an official for the Irish tourist authority, which has struggled for find accommodation for more than 10,000 extra guests associated with the Tour.

The Irish government committed £2 million (\$3 million) - part of it invested in improving its hit-and-miss road network - for the right to hold the first three days of the competition, which is likely to draw 300,000 to 400,000 spectators. The offer couldn't have been better timed for France, which already has its hands full hosting the World Cup.

The 21 cycling teams - including six French, six Italian and four Spanish, plus the lone but potent German team, Telekom - arrived yesterday afternoon for their physicals and to start exploring the first two days' courses.

Chris Boardman, the British sprint specialist and a favorite to win tomorrow's opening 5.7-km prologue in central Dublin for his French Gan sponsors, admitted he felt insecure and under pressure.

"I'm not in the best shape I could be in," he said, citing distractions in his personal life for his lackluster season.

"This year I'll probably be in the first five and might win," said Boardman, an Olympic champion who already has two Tour de France prologue wins under his belt. "I'm not being negative, just realistic." Dubliners high and low were just being expensive.

"It's a magnificent achievement for Ireland to win the Tour here," said Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews, taking a stroll past the Oscar Wilde statue on Merrion Square, the first sharp turn in tomorrow's prologue.

Andrews plans to watch the first 180.5-km stage Sunday as the cyclists traverse the coastal road south of Dublin - then, along with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, catch a flight to Paris to watch France play Brazil in the World Cup final.

"It's a great honor for us. But then we've got a great affinity with the French - ties of blood, ties of passion," said John O'Leary, holding a placard touting the services of "Christine Murphy, True Irish Traditional Fortune Teller." But he'd make no predictions of who might win, since like most Dubliners he has no idea who any of the competitors are.

Asked if he'd heard of last year's winner, Germany's Jan Ullrich, O'Leary said: "Sounds like he's Swedish. Or is he a boy?"

"Nobody knows who the riders are, but it should be good crack," said Claran Parker, 30, using the slang for fun conversation. A list himself, he plans to watch race from the vantage point of 10 as the racers return to a via the narrow winding of the Wicklow Mountains.

They're Irish mountains. We're talking the Alps here," he said. Local cycling enthusiasts are saying that the Tour's sojourn in Ireland will rekindle interest in a sport barely on the national consciousness since the glory days of 1980s, when Stephen Roche won the Tour in 1987 and Ian Kelly four times won the "green jersey" as its most consistent finisher.

"I never really thought it would be possible to bring such a big event here," said Kelly, who on Monday will see the race travel past his hometown of Carrick-on-Quir, midway along the 205.5-km route to Ireland's second city, Cork.

WINNING CARDS
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ILL DO IT MY WAY - Oded Katash on Wednesday tells the assembled Israeli media of his plans to move to the Knicks. (Yossi Yehonatan/Israel Sun)

Katash's departure won't weaken Maccabi Tel Aviv

Oded Katash's imminent signing with the New York Knicks will precipitate personnel changes on both his new NBA team's and Maccabi Tel Aviv's respective rosters.

The focal points are exactly how Katash will fit in with the Knicks, and what Maccabi plans to do after the departure of its EuroLeague all-star and most popular player. NEW YORK KNICKS - The Knicks played the majority of the 1997-98 season without all-star center Patrick Ewing. Even Ewing's return in the playoffs didn't help New York get past the second round.

The team has already made one major off-season acquisition by trading power forward Charles Oakley for the much younger Marcus Camby.

Ewing, Camby and Larry Johnson form a formidable frontcourt that should be among the league's best.

In addition, the Knicks have one of the best shooting guards in the game. Allan Houston.

Fortunately for Katash, New York's weak link has been the point guard position. The team's current point guards - Chris Childs and Charlie Ward - are decidedly mediocre. If the Knicks are able to strike a deal for the Milwaukee Bucks' fine point guard, Terrell Brandon, Childs is almost certain to go, meaning that Katash will have one primary rival for the backup point guard position.

Although a natural shooting guard, Katash saw time at the point last season, and his ball-handling ability and quick release should make his transition smooth. Although there will certainly be games where Katash stays on the

MY CALL

BY ELI GROSS

bench for the entire 48 minutes, don't be surprised to see him get close to 15 minutes of playing time during others.

MACCABI TEL AVIV - From the way some people are reacting, one would think that Maccabi isn't the overwhelming favorite to run away with the Israeli championship next year.

That is not the case. Despite coach Yoram Harush's lamenting, "I really hoped that Katash would stay. It leaves a gaping hole in the guard rotation," Maccabi, with its nucleus of Nadav Henefeld, Doron Sheffer and new recruit Gur Shelef, will be just fine, thank you very much.

In fact, Katash's departure isn't even the most pressing off-season concern. Maccabi center Rashard Griffith is reportedly pursuing other

options in Turkey. Griffith has the potential to be the most dominating player in Europe, but professional disagreements with last year's coach, Vinko Jelovac (over the creative license given to Katash, ironically enough) left the talented center disenchanted with the club.

This doesn't faze Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi though. "Contracts have to be honored," said Mizrahi. "Just like we honored Katash's right to exercise the clause in his contract enabling him to play in the NBA, Griffith has to honor the last two years on his contract."

With Katash gone, Griffith should become the undisputed No. 1 offensive option for the defending champions. If Griffith does return, then expect Maccabi to repeat as league champions and make a much stronger run in the EuroLeague as well.

Who are these guys? USA Basketball says they are potential world champions

CHICAGO (AP) - Michael Jordan's reign as His Airness was still years away when he won his first Olympic gold medal in 1984, and David Robinson was just a big kid fresh out of Navy when he played in the 1986 world championships.

Before the Dream Team, Dream Team II and whatever version this year's was supposed to be, the United States took college players to international games.

Now USA Basketball is trying the old way again - with a '90s twist. Because of the NBA lockout, USA Basketball dumped its NBA All-Stars and is fielding a team of college stars, Canadian players and Americans who play professionally overseas.

"We've been able to select a team that hopefully will get and be com-

petitive and bring home the gold medal," Craig Miller, spokesman for USA Basketball, said Tuesday.

The roster will be pared to 12 by the time training camp ends next Tuesday. The 1998 FIBA World Championships start July 29 in Athens.

Of the 29 players who accepted invitations to this week's training camp, the biggest names are Duke's Trajan Langdon and Jimmy King, part of Michigan's famed Fab Five. Big East player of the year Richard Hamilton, who flirted with turning pro before deciding to return to Connecticut for his junior season, also made the list. So did Maseen Cleaves, the Big Ten's player of the year.

Three current college players are coming to the training camp, as are two who just exhausted their eligibility. 12 current CBA players, nine

who played overseas last year and three who played both overseas and in the CBA.

One player, Evan Eschmeyer of Northwestern, declined an invitation due to previous personal commitments. He will not be replaced.

"We feel confident that out of this group we can and will field a very competitive team, a team that will go out and try to win the world championship," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said.

Had things gone according to the original plan, Tomjanovich would be sizing up Grant Hill and Gary Payton this week. But even before the NBA lockout began on July 1, the 12 NBA players who had been chosen were dumped by USA Basketball on June 16.

There's a lot more at stake for this team than just making their mark,

though. The world championships help determine what 12 teams go to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, and only the world champion and the host country qualify automatically.

Other countries are still likely to use NBA players. Among those scheduled to play are Vlade Divac of Yugoslavia, Steve Nash and Rick Fox of Canada, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Lithuania.

The US, with a team of NBA players, won the 1994 world championships in Toronto. The US went on to win the gold medal two years later in the Atlanta Olympics.

"Before, everyone was conceding the gold medal to the US and everyone else was playing for silver and bronze," Miller said. "Now, you have a competition where the best team won't be known until the last game is played."

SPORTS

in brief

Moroccan picked to referee final

PARIS (AP) - Said Belqola of Morocco was picked yesterday to referee the World Cup championship game between Brazil and France.

Linesmen for Sunday's match will be Mark Warren of England and Achmat Salle of South Africa. Abdul Rahman Al Zeid of Saudi Arabia is the alternate.

For tomorrow's third-place game between the Netherlands and Croatia, the referee will be Paraguay's Epifanio Gonzalez. Linesmen will be Emanuel Zammit of Malta and Lencie Fred of Vanuatu. Urs Meier of Switzerland is the alternate.

Belqola, 41, is the father of four children and a customs inspector in the Moroccan city of Fes. He began refereeing in 1983 and moved up to the international level 10 years later. His biggest match prior to the World Cup was the third-place game at the FIFA Under-17 World Championships in 1995.

Florist stands to collect another jackpot

LONDON (AP) - No one will be rooting for Brazil to win Sunday's World Cup final more than Adrian Fitzpatrick.

The Birmingham florist stands to become the biggest ever winner from a British bookmaker.

If Brazil wins, it will bring his total World Cup winnings from bookmakers William Hill to £939,500 (\$1.5 million).

In 1994, Fitzpatrick won £395,000 (\$632,000) when Brazil won the Cup, having staked a £13,000 (\$20,000) accumulator bet. Now, he will land £544,500 (\$871,200) if the Brazilians win again.

This year, Fitzpatrick bet £18,000 (\$28,800) on a double, coupling a Brazil victory with Arsenal winning last season's Premier League title.

Brazil favored to beat France in final

LONDON (Reuters) - Brazil were still strongly favored to win the World Cup final on Sunday despite France's victory over Croatia in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Latest William Hill betting: 4-11 Brazil 13-8 France Brazil are even money to win in 90 minutes play. A draw is 2-1 and France are 5-2 to win.

Magazine suggests Cruyff as Germany coach

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's top soccer magazine suggested yesterday that Johan Cruyff should take over from Bert Vogts as national team coach.

Kicker named the former Barcelona coach in a list of possible alternatives to Vogts, under fire after Germany's quarter-final defeat by Croatia in the World Cup.

"The Dutchman knows world football, has modern ideas about systems and tactics and has absolute authority," Kicker said.

"The fact that Cruyff is a foreigner would only be an advantage at a time when German football needs new ideas. So why not Cruyff?" it asked.

Vogts has declared his intention to stay on despite Germany's World Cup disappointment. But he has come under public and media pressure to quit after eight years in charge of the national side.

Camacho quits as Real Madrid coach

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid coach Jose Antonio Camacho has resigned only three weeks after joining the European Cup winners. Spanish state radio reported yesterday.

Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz described the announcement as "an unexpected surprise."

Lili Alvarez, Spanish tennis pioneer, dies at 93

MADRID (AP) - Elia Maria Gonzalez Alvarez, a pioneer in women's tennis in Spain, has died. She was 93.

Alvarez died Wednesday at her home in Madrid. Better known as Lili Alvarez, she ruled Spanish tennis in the 1920s. She was a finalist at Wimbledon in 1926, 1927 and 1928, and captured the French Open doubles title in 1929 with her Dutch partner Kea Baumann.

Alvarez, who also ice skated and skied, retired from sports in 1942 to write essays and poems, which were published in several books. She became a political correspondent for the British newspaper Daily Mail in the 1930s.

Villeneuve says Schumacher puts others at risk

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) - Defending Formula One champion Jacques Villeneuve says Michael Schumacher's driving puts others at risk.

"Taking risks for yourself is one thing, putting other people at risk is another thing," Villeneuve said. "It goes beyond what I believe is acceptable."

The comments came after the French Grand Prix two weeks ago - and published yesterday on the eve of Sunday's British Grand Prix - are sure to heat up the fierce rivalry between the two.

Schumacher, who was criticized for his driving tactics in last month's Canadian Grand Prix, was stripped of his second place in last year's final series standings after ransacking Villeneuve in the season-ending race.

Also in the Canadian race, Villeneuve's Williams' teammate Heinz-Harald Frentzen was nearly forced off the track by Schumacher. Schumacher received a 10-second penalty and Frentzen has since called for the

German to resign from the drivers' union.

The German is second in this year's series standings and won the F1 championship in 1994 and '95.

"The line to follow is: Don't do something you wouldn't want other people to do to you," Villeneuve added. "If you believe nothing can happen to you and you are a higher being than everybody else, then I guess you are allowed to do anything you want."

Out of the title chase this year and without a top three finish in the first eight races, the French Canadian also said he would prefer someone other than Schumacher's Ferrari to win this season's championship.

"Michael already has two championships, so it would be good if someone else got it," Villeneuve said.

Mika Hakkinen of McLaren Mercedes leads with series standings, six points ahead of Schumacher, and 20 on top of McLaren teammate David Coulthard.

The working life: Cal Ripken has no plans to sit

By DAVID GINSBURG

BALTIMORE (AP) - Lou Gehrig played 2,130 consecutive baseball games until there finally came a time when he simply couldn't do it anymore.

Some question if Cal Ripken is reaching that point with his amazing streak.

Ripken eclipsed Gehrig's seemingly unbreakable US Major League Baseball record on September 6, 1995, and has bolstered the mark despite advancing age and declining offense. His critics say enough is enough, insisting there is no reason to extend a streak that now stands at 2,566.

Columnists from both The New York Times and The Baltimore Sun last month cited Ripken's shrinking power numbers

as an indication that the Baltimore Orioles' third baseman was swinging a tired bat and hurting the team by extending the streak.

But Ripken insists he's fine and has no intention of asking for a day off.

"I'm considered the everyday baseball player, the regular third baseman for the Orioles," Ripken said during the All-Star break. "I come to the ballpark with the simple approach that as long as the manager thinks I can be one of the guys that can help us win, I'll play."

He helped the American League on Tuesday night. He made his 15th straight start in an All-Star game, going 1-for-4 with two RBIs in a 13-8 victory over the National League.

Ripken, who turns 38 next month, is hitting .258 with seven homers and 36 RBIs - numbers that project to well below his yearly average. But he's made only three errors and certainly is more of a commodity than backup Jeff Reboullet.

"Whatever Cal has on any given day is good enough for me," Orioles manager Ray Miller said. "I have a tough enough time getting guys to play two weeks in a row, let alone every game." Miller isn't the only manager with that point of view.

"Cal Ripken is a great player and still a very productive player," said Jim Leyland, manager of the World Series champion Florida Marlins. "If Cal Ripken is healthy, he's like any other great player - you want him in the lineup. I'll never believe that

Cal Ripken is hurting his team by playing." Ripken's backers insist that his performance and persistence over 17 seasons give him the right to extend the streak.

Besides, in an era where many stars bounce from one team to another and miss games because of minor injuries, seeing Ripken in the Orioles' starting lineup each day is a reassuring sight.

"The one thing that seems right about baseball is Cal playing every day," Baltimore center fielder Brady Anderson said.

And it's not as if one day off is going to completely revitalize Ripken's bat.

"Do you mean to tell me that a guy who's played that many games is supposed to rested after taking off one day?" Leyland

said. "If he's slowed up, isn't feeling good and needs to take off three or four days at a time, that's one thing. But that's obviously not the case."

So how will the streak end? Gehrig was batted .143 for the New York Yankees when he asked the manager to remove him from the lineup on May 2, 1939. It turned out Gehrig was already experiencing the effects of a deadly disease, and the man called the Iron Horse never played another major league game.

Ripken figures it's only a matter of time before his own streak comes to an appropriate conclusion.

"The situation will present itself, which will make sense, and it will happen," he said. "I can't tell you how."

